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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECAFE	Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East
ECLA	Economic Commission for Latin America
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
ILO	International Labour Organisation
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WHO	World Health Organization

I. MATTERS THAT REQUIRE ACTION BY, OR ARE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF, THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

A. Draft resolutions

1. The Commission on the Status of Women approved the following draft resolutions:

I

International Women's Year 1/

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that General Assembly resolution 3010 (XXVII) of 18 December 1972 proclaimed 1975 as International Women's Year and decided to devote this Year to intensified action:

(a) To promote equality between men and women;

(b) To ensure the full integration of women in the total development effort, especially by emphasizing women's responsibility and important role in economic, social and cultural development at the national, regional and international levels, particularly during the Second United Nations Development Decade;

(c) To recognize the importance of women's increasing contribution to the development of friendly relations and co-operation among States and to the strengthening of world peace,

1. Approves the programme of measures and activities envisaged for Member States, the United Nations, the specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations, the national and international organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status concerned, which has been recommended by the Commission on the Status of Women and is set out in annex V to the Commission's report on its twenty-fifth session (E/5451);

2. Invites Member States, the specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations, the national and international organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status concerned, to devote the Year 1975 to intensified efforts and undertakings, including the measures and activities set out in the above-mentioned programme;

3. Invites the Secretary-General to make every necessary arrangement to facilitate the co-operation of competent regional intergovernmental organizations in observing 1975 as International Women's Year, as provided in General Assembly resolution 3010 (XXVII);

4. Requests the Secretary-General to co-ordinate, to the extent possible, the measures and activities undertaken by Member States, the United Nations, the specialized agencies, regional organizations and the national and international

1/ See paragraphs 47-49 below.

organizations concerned and in particular to collect and disseminate information on activities contemplated or undertaken in connexion with the International Women's Year.

/Approved at the 627th meeting,
31 January 1974/

II

Establishment of a fund for voluntary contributions for the International Women's Year 2/

The Economic and Social Council

1. Welcomes voluntary contributions from States Members of the United Nations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, private foundations and interested individuals to supplement the resources available to implement the programme for the International Women's Year;

2. Calls upon the Secretary-General to accept such voluntary contributions.

/Approved at the 628th meeting,
1 February 1974/

III

International conference to be held during the International Women's Year 3/

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that General Assembly resolution 3010 (XXVII) of 18 December 1972 proclaimed 1975 as International Women's Year in recognition of the beneficial work done by the Commission on the Status of Women in the 25 years since its establishment and the important contributions which women have made to the social, political, economic and cultural life of their countries,

Emphasizing that, in accordance with the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, 4/ activities undertaken in connexion with the International Women's Year should recognize the importance of women's effective contribution to the struggle against racism and racial discrimination,

Noting that the General Assembly in its resolution 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, whereby it adopted the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, included among the goals and objectives of the Decade the encouragement of the full integration of women in the total development effort,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to organize in 1975, in consultation with States Members of the United Nations, specialized agencies and interested non-governmental organizations, an international conference during the International

2/ See paragraphs 50-53.

3/ See paragraphs 54-62.

4/ For the text of the Programme, see General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII), annex.

Women's Year to examine to what extent the organizations of the United Nations system have implemented the recommendations for the elimination of discrimination against women made by the Commission on the Status of Women since its establishment; to consider further programmes to encourage the full integration of women with special attention to women in rural areas in the total development effort; to develop an action plan that will increase women's contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Second Development Decade, and to recognize the importance of women's increasing contribution to friendly relations, co-operation and world peace;

2. Calls on the Secretary-General to provide substantive preparation for the Conference by a reordering of priorities from within available resources.

/Approved at the 628th meeting,
1 February 1974/

IV

Implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and related instruments 5/

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1677 (LII) of 2 June 1972 establishing a new cycle of reporting with respect to the implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and of certain other international instruments relating to women's rights,

Noting with appreciation the analytical report (E/CN.6/571 and Add.1 and 2) prepared by the Secretary-General in accordance with resolution 1677 (LII), and the findings and recommendations of the Commission on the Status of Women based on its consideration of that report at its twenty-fifth session,

Considering that relatively few replies were received in the first series of reports submitted under the new cycle of consolidated reporting, and that consequently a very incomplete picture of the de jure and de facto implementation of the Declaration and related instruments was available to the Commission on the Status of Women,

Recognizing at the same time that many Governments face difficulties in obtaining the necessary information for submission to the Secretary-General and in meeting other requests for information emanating from the Commission on the Status of Women and other United Nations bodies,

Believing however that adequate information on the implementation of the Declaration and related instruments is necessary and important in enabling the Commission on the Status of Women to evaluate the full impact of its work, and that the exchange of information and experience of different countries through the information furnished is highly valuable,

5/ See paragraphs 103 and 104.

1. Expresses its appreciation to the 34 Governments and 14 non-governmental organizations which have submitted reports in this first series of reports under the new cycle of reporting established by resolution 1677 (LII);

2. Notes with satisfaction the steps taken during the period under review, from June 1971 to June 1973:

(a) To give publicity to the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and to create fuller awareness and understanding of its principles through the press and other mass media, published material, various forms of discussion groups, schools and educational institutions and through the translation of the Declaration into national and local languages;

(b) To encourage compliance in law and in practice with the provisions of the Declaration through various measures, including the establishment of national commissions, advisory councils and similar bodies;

3. Regrets however that in many instances full compliance with the Declaration and related instruments has not yet been achieved, that wide discrepancies continue to exist between the de jure and the de facto situation and that serious obstacles still have to be overcome, especially as regards prevailing attitudes towards stereotyped sex roles;

4. Invites Governments, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations which have not already done so, to submit reports as soon as possible for the period from June 1971 to June 1973, and requests the Secretary-General to forward to them the analytical report submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-fifth session, as well as the guidelines prepared at the Commission's request in its resolution 3 (XXIV);

5. Urges all Governments, as well as the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations concerned to furnish information on the implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and related instruments in the next series of reports, which will deal primarily with economic, social and cultural rights and cover the period from June 1971 to June 1975 on the basis of the guidelines provided by the Secretary-General;

6. Further invites Governments to consider as part of their long-term programme for the International Women's Year, the desirability of appointing as soon as possible national correspondents to assist them in obtaining and compiling the necessary data on a regular basis, correspondents that could work in close collaboration with appropriate government agencies concerned, with national commissions or similar bodies where these exist and also, where appropriate, with interested national non-governmental organizations;

7. Requests Member States to inform the Secretary-General at the latest by the beginning of 1975 about action taken concerning the appointment of such national correspondents.

Approved at the 613th meeting,
23 January 1974

Legal capacity of married women, including the capacity
to engage in independent work 6/

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering that article 6 of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women provides inter alia for the equality of men and women in the field of private law, for the exercise by women of their legal capacity on equal terms with men and for the equal rights and responsibilities of husband and wife during marriage,

Noting that:

(a) In a number of legal systems, married women do not enjoy the right to engage freely in independent work;

(b) In various legal systems the exercise of such right by the wife and her capacity to manage and dispose of her earnings from independent work are subject to limitations which do not apply to the husband,

Taking into account that these situations do not conform to article 6 of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women,

1. Recommends that States Members of the United Nations, where such is not yet the case, take all the necessary measures to ensure that the legal capacity of married women is equal with that of men, concerning:

(a) Gainful employment outside the home;

(b) The full capacity to administer their property and the revenue of their work;

(c) The administration of the joint property of the spouses;

(d) Parental authority over their children and their interest;

(e) Dissolution of marriage and its legal effects;

2. Recommends further that, in such cases, Member States provide adequate remedies, judicial or otherwise, to both spouses to help them solve their disagreements in respect of questions mentioned above, particular emphasis being put on the necessity of mediation through competent authorities, with the assistance of personnel trained in all aspects of family relations.

/Approved at the 613th meeting,
23 January 1974/

6/ See paragraphs 112-118.

Study on the interrelationship of the status
of women and family planning 7/

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Declaration on Social Progress and Development proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 2542 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969, by which it confirmed that parents have the right to determine freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children, and that families should be provided with the knowledge and the means necessary to enable them to exercise this right,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2683 (XXV) of 11 December 1970 designating the year 1974 as World Population Year and Economic and Social Council resolution 1484 (XLVIII) of 3 April 1970, by which it was decided to convene a World Population Conference in 1974 to consider "basic demographic problems, their relationship with economic and social development, and population policies and action programmes needed to promote human welfare and development",

Recognizing that the status of women, population change and over-all development are closely interrelated and that women have a crucial role to play in all of these areas, which has not yet been fully recognized,

Recognizing also that for many countries the current and continuing rapid population growth has serious implications both for the advancement of women and for development,

Believing that the report of the Special Rapporteur on the interrelationship of the status of women and family planning (E/CN.6/575 and Add.1-3) contains a number of basic principles and defines basic concepts which are highly relevant to the achievement of the social and economic goals of the Second United Nations Development Decade,

1. Notes with appreciation the study made by the Special Rapporteur, Helvi Sipilä,

2. Affirms that:

(a) The right to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children is a fundamental right of individuals which facilitates the exercise of other human rights, especially by women;

(b) Adequate information, education and services enabling individuals to exercise this right are essential prerequisites for the promotion of the status of women, and for ensuring their complete integration in social and economic development at all levels;

(c) Family planning, which should constitute an integrated and essential part of development plans and programmes, in countries suffering from over-population can only succeed in concert with other measures which also improve the status of women;

7/ See paragraphs 140-142.

3. Urges States Members of the United Nations to use the report of the Special Rapporteur as a guideline in the formulation of their population policies and with a view to promoting full participation of women at all levels and in all sectors of social, economic and political life, including decision-making levels, in order to achieve equal representation of men and women and, to that end:

(a) To take urgent positive measures to improve with all possible means and especially during the World Population Year and the International Women's Year the access of women to adequate maternity, child-health and child-care services, education, vocational training and employment;

(b) To include and fully utilize, when considering the establishment of national commissions on population, representatives of women's and other non-governmental organizations to assist with planning and implementing more effective health programmes for all women and children in rural and urban areas, with particular attention to progress in the reduction of maternal, infant and child mortality, and the promotion of family planning and population programmes of action;

(c) To introduce population education in schools at all levels and for youth attending school as well as for those who do not, in the most appropriate manner;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to distribute the report of the Special Rapporteur as a background document to Member States for the World Population Conference to be taken into consideration in the final drafting of the World Population Plan of Action, and to issue it, in a popular form;

5. Urges all Member States to provide equal representation for women on their delegations to the World Population Conference, thus giving them a share in the formulation and adoption of a comprehensive and effective World Population Plan of Action;

6. Requests Governments to support and promote as much as possible during the World Population Year and the International Women's Year programmes and activities of the non-governmental organizations and action groups which will assist in creating a better understanding of the causes, nature, scope and consequences of the question of population growth and its relationship to the promotion of the status of women and the quality of life;

7. Requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To undertake further interdisciplinary and cross-national studies based on the findings of the Special Rapporteur's report and the conclusions and recommendations of the Seminars on the Status of Women and Family Planning held in 1972 and 1973 in Turkey, the Dominican Republic and Indonesia, and if possible to report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-sixth session;

(b) To report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-sixth session the findings and recommendations of the World Population Conference and related meetings as they affect the status of women and their integration in development.

/Approved at the 621st meeting,
29 January 1974/

Implementation of a programme of concerted international action to promote the advancement of women and their intergration in development 8/

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970 setting forth the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, including the encouragement of the total integration of women in development,

Recalling further the need to implement the programme for concerted international action for the advancement of women and their integration in development set forth in General Assembly resolution 2716 (XXV) of 15 December 1970,

Convinced that, as progress with regard to improving the status of women has been slow in many instances, special efforts should be made to review and appraise progress made in implementing the programme of concerted international action in the context of the mid-term review and appraisal of progress made in the first half of the Second United Nations Development Decade to take place in 1975 which will also be celebrated as the International Women's Year,

Noting General Assembly resolution 2801 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971, by which it requested competent secretariats at the sectoral and regional levels to co-operate with the Committee for Development Planning in the fulfilment of its task by collecting, processing and making available the necessary data and information, and also the machinery established for review and appraisal contained in that resolution and in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1621 C (LI) and 1625 (LI) of 30 July 1971,

Taking into account the discussion on the implementation of the Strategy with respect to the advancement of women and their integration in development at the twenty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and reaffirming that the Commission has an important role to perform in assisting the Council concerning review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy with respect to matters within its competence, in preparing the mid-term review of the Second Development Decade in order that it will reflect accurately the extent to which goals established for the integration of women in development have been reached,

1. Decides that this role should be performed within the framework of the machinery for review and appraisal provided for by the General Assembly in its resolution 2801 (XXVI) and Council resolutions 1621 C (LI) and 1625 (LI);
2. Decides to authorize the Chairman of the Commission on the Status of Women, or a representative chosen by her from among members of the Commission, to serve as its representative to the Committee for Development Planning and the

8/ See paragraphs 164-167.

Committee on Review and Appraisal and invites these Committees to utilize the expertise available in the Secretariat in the field of women's integration in development when preparing comments on the entire review process;

3. Calls upon Governments of States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies to ensure that women are adequately represented on delegations in the entire review process for the Decade;

4. Requests the Secretary-General, in the preparation of the agenda of all sessions of the Committee on Review and Appraisal relating to the entire review process of the United Nations Second Development Decade, to give due attention to the integration of women in development, both in programme review and in subsequent recommendations for modifications in the United Nations programme;

5. Urges Governments of Member States to report on progress made to implement the objectives and targets contained in the programme of concerted action to promote the advancement of women and their integration in development under General Assembly resolution 2716 (XXV) in time for the major mid-term review of the Decade in 1975;

6. Requests the specialized agencies, the United Nations Development Programme, the regional economic commissions, other concerned organizations in the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations to take into account, in connexion with the mid-term review and appraisal of the Second Development Decade, the extent to which programmes endorsed by them include projects aiming at the integration of women in the total development effort, also bearing in mind the deliberations of the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-fifth session and the relevant report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/577) and to report thereon to the Commission at its twenty-sixth session and to the Committee on Review and Appraisal in time for the mid-term review in 1975;

7. Requests the Committee for Development Planning and the Committee on Review and Appraisal to make recommendations to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session for strengthening the Strategy by further emphasizing in its provisions the necessity of integrating women at all levels and stages of development, taking into account the specific objectives and minimum targets set out in General Assembly resolution 2716 (XXV);

8. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-sixth session on the allocation of funds and personnel within existing development programmes for women by the United Nations system of organizations, aimed at achieving the goals and objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade and of General Assembly resolution 2716 (XXV), this report to include a clear statement as to percentage of the total budget spent on these programmes for women for the current biennium and the proposed increase for the following biennium;

9. Urges Member States to co-operate with non-governmental organizations interested in submitting information needed by the Commission on the Status of Women on the programmes of integration of women in development;

10. Recommends that Member States instruct their representatives to all organizations within the United Nations system to examine the work programmes of these organizations from the point of view of their impact on the status of women and their integration in development and to authorize the funds necessary for the evaluation of this impact;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report to be considered by the Commission at its twenty-sixth session which should explore approaches to, and methodologies for, the development of social data or indicators on the role and contribution of women in the economic, social and cultural aspects of the development process, in consultation with the Committee for Development Planning, drawing upon the competent secretariats at the sectoral and regional levels and in consultation with the interested specialized agencies.

/Approved at the 621st meeting,
29 January 1974/

VIII

Status of rural women, especially agricultural workers 9/

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering that article 9 of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women provides, inter alia, for all appropriate measures to be taken to ensure that girls and women, married or unmarried, have equal rights with men in education at all levels, and in particular for equal opportunities for access to programmes of life-long education including adult literacy programmes, access to educational information to be held in ensuring the health and well-being of families,

Noting that:

(a) There is a need for women in rural areas to participate more effectively in national development programmes and that such participation merits recognition by status or wages;

(b) In many countries, on account of the limited opportunities for gainful work in the rural areas, women migrate to urban areas and enter service occupations where many of them may be exploited;

(c) There is a need for women to be trained to use fully the resources and raw materials in the rural areas for total national development,

Taking into account that these situations are not in accordance with article 9 of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women,

Recommends that Member States take all necessary steps to start or intensify a programme for mass life-long education for both men and women through television, radio and all other means of mass media or means of communication,

9/ See paragraphs 168-174.

and that programmes should include information and education on family life, including family planning and citizenship, as well as vocational training in economic activities including cottage and home industries, farming, rural development and co-operatives.

/Approved at the 618th meeting,
25 January 1974/

IX

Employment of women by the secretariats of organizations
within the United Nations system 10/

The Economic and Social Council,

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling Article 8 of the United Nations Charter as well as its resolution 2716 (XXV) on the programme of concerted international action for the advancement of women and the objectives and minimum targets to be achieved during the Second United Nations Development Decade set forth in the annex to that resolution, particularly those concerned with the increase in the number of women participating in public life at the international level,

"Noting with appreciation that, wherever women have been appointed in positions of responsibility in the United Nations system of organizations, this has resulted in a more effective implementation of the aims and programmes of the United Nations, especially those relevant to the status of women,

"Noting with appreciation that the reports of the Secretary-General on the composition of the Secretariat submitted to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth and twenty-eighth sessions 11/ included some information on the employment of women in senior and other professional positions in the secretariats of organizations in the United Nations system,

"Noting also that the report of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research entitled The situation of women in the United Nations 12/ confirms the imbalance in the proportion of women at the higher levels and gives statistics showing the unequal progress of women and men staff members in terms of promotion in the United Nations Secretariat,

"Concerned that these reports reveal an unsatisfactory situation which calls for specific measures and programmes in order to achieve an equitable balance between the number of men and women, particularly in senior and policy-making positions, including those of Under-Secretary-General and Assistant Secretary-General,

10/ See paragraphs 175-186.

11/ Documents A/8483 and A/9120 and Corr.1 and 2.

12/ UNITAR Research Report No. 18, 1973.

"1. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations as well as the executive heads of all organizations of the United Nations system to take all necessary measures in order to ensure, in strict accordance with equitable geographical distribution, that an equitable balance between men and women staff members, particularly in the positions described above, be achieved before the end of the Second United Nations Development Decade, at all levels in the United Nations system, international, regional and national;

"2. Urges the Secretary-General of the United Nations as well as the executive heads of all organizations of the United Nations system, in order to attain this objective, to adopt a more flexible and positive approach in the recruitment of women and to give greater attention to the assignments given to and promotion of qualified women;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations as well as the executive heads of all organizations of the United Nations system to establish an advisory committee within their respective secretariats, without any financial implications, to assist in the formulation of measures and policies aimed at achieving the objective mentioned in the paragraphs above and in their implementation;

"4. Requests further the Secretary-General of the United Nations as well as the executive heads of all organizations of the United Nations system to report to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session, in 1975, on steps that have been taken to give effect to paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 above;

"5. Requests also the Secretary-General to continue to include in his reports on the composition of the Secretariat submitted to the General Assembly comprehensive data on the employment of women in the secretariats of the United Nations system of organizations so as to indicate clearly the nature of posts and types of duties performed by women in professional and policy-making levels, bearing in mind the principle of equitable geographical distribution;

"6. Further requests that the Secretary-General report on the status of women employees in the secretariats at the General Service category."

/Approved at the 621st meeting,
29 January 1974/

X

Technical co-operation activities for
the advancement of women 13/

The Economic and Social Council,

Appreciating the proclamation by the General Assembly that the year 1975 be declared International Women's Year,

13/ See paragraphs 197-200.

Recognizing that among the threefold objectives of the year is the desire to ensure the full integration of women in the total development effort especially during the Development Decades,

Conscious also of the difficulties faced by a number of developing countries with respect to ensuring the full employment of women,

Desirous of increasing the earning power of women and raising the standard of living of their families,

1. Urges Governments of Member States to seek new ways and means of establishing non-profit-seeking but viable decentralized cottage and handicraft industries which would provide part or full-time work for women;

2. Requests all appropriate organs of the United Nations system to give full consideration to allocating more of their technical assistance funds for the purpose of assisting Governments in setting up cottage and handicraft industries and in finding markets for the products of such industries both within the country itself and in foreign markets, preferably in co-operation with voluntary organizations which are already interested in this work.

/Approved at the 616th meeting,
24 January 1974/

XI

Activities of the International Labour Organisation to promote the advancement of women and their integration in development 14/

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 3010 (XXVII) of 18 December 1972 proclaiming the year 1975 International Women's Year, in recognition of the effectiveness of the work done by the Commission on the Status of Women in the 25 years since its establishment, and the important contribution which women have made to the social, political, economic and cultural life of their countries,

Taking note of the report by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/579) concerning International Labour Organisation activities of special interest in relation to the employment of women and of the preliminary report on women in a changing world submitted to the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation at its one hundred and ninety-first session, 15/

Noting with satisfaction the positive contribution of that specialized agency to the attainment of the objectives of the International Women's Year and the importance of its activities designed to promote the progress of women,

14/ See paragraphs 201-206.

15/ Women Workers in a Changing World (Geneva, International Labour Office, 1973), circulated under cover of document GB/191/2/1 (Appendix IV).

1. Invites the International Labour Organisation to contribute to the International Women's Year by continuing to expand and strengthen its standard-setting activities in fields of special interest to women;

2. Requests the International Labour Organisation to expand its efforts in this field and to accord particular attention to girls and women in the revision of instruments on vocational guidance and training and in the work being carried out under the World Employment Programme;

3. Draws the attention of the International Labour Organisation to the need to study the possibility of revising certain conventions, for example, the Convention concerning Maternity Protection, with full regard to the differing conditions in different countries, and to the need to transform certain recommendations into conventions, for example, the recommendation on the employment of women with family obligations, in order to prevent discrimination against women;

4. Recommends that in its future work, the International Labour Organisation should devote attention to new problems of concern to women workers, including the impact of technological and scientific developments on the employment of women and problems relating to part-time work in the light of the changing roles of men and women in economic life and in the family.

/Approved at the 618th meeting,
25 January 1974/

XII

Activities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to promote the advancement of women and their integration in development 16/

The Economic and Social Council.

1. Requests the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization:

(a) To develop pilot projects in the developing countries, in a manner appropriate to the needs of those countries with regard to literacy, and pre-school, primary, technical and vocational education and teacher training;

(b) To give full effect to the resolutions of the Third International Conference on Adult Education, which recognized the need, in view of the inadequacies of women's education, for priority action on behalf of women;

(c) To ensure that, in the revision of the recommendations on vocational training undertaken jointly by the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, these recommendations follow closely the lines indicated by the latter organization at the sixteenth session of its General Conference in regard to equal educational opportunities for girls and women;

16/ See paragraphs 207-210.

(d) To continue and to increase the efforts it makes for the advancement of women among member States - particularly among the national commissions for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization - and non-governmental organizations as well as among national and regional commissions on the status of women;

(e) To request member States to take into account, when nominating candidates for study courses at the Institute for Educational Planning, the need to increase the number of women candidates, so that women may occupy their rightful place at all levels of decision-making by education authorities;

2. Expresses the wish, bearing in mind the goals of the International Women's Year, that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in the allocation of its budgetary resources, devote as large a share as possible thereof to the co-ordinated efforts of its various departments to ensure the utilization and advancement of women within the organization for the benefit of the women staff of its own secretariat and in all bodies where it exercises competence.

/Approved at the 619th meeting,
28 January 1974/

XIII

Protection of women and children in emergency and armed
conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination,
national liberation and independence 17/

The Economic and Social Council,

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution containing a declaration on the protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence:

"The General Assembly,

"Expressing its deep concern over the sufferings of women and children belonging to the civilian population who in periods of emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence are too often the victims of inhuman acts and consequently suffer serious harm,

"Aware of the suffering of women and children in many areas of the world, especially in those areas subject to suppression, aggression, colonialism, racism, alien domination and foreign subjugation,

"Deeply concerned by the fact that, despite general and unequivocal condemnation, colonialism, racism, alien and foreign domination continue to subject many peoples under their yoke, and cruelly suppressing the national liberation movements and inflicting heavy losses and incalculable sufferings on the populations under their domination, including women and children,

17/ See paragraphs 227-230.

"Deploring that grave attacks are still being made on fundamental freedoms and the dignity of the human person and that colonial and racist foreign domination powers continue to violate the international humanitarian law,

"Recalling the relevant provisions contained in the instruments of international humanitarian law relative to the protection of women and children in time of peace and war,

"Recalling its resolutions 2444 (XXIII), 2597 (XXIV), 2674 (XXV) and 2675 (XXV) on respect for human rights and basic principles for the protection of civilian populations in armed conflict, as well as Economic and Social Council resolution 1515 (XLVIII) of 28 May 1970 which requests the General Assembly to consider the possibility of drafting a declaration on the protection of women and children in emergency and wartime, among other important documents,

"Conscious of its responsibility for the destiny of the rising generation and for the destiny of mothers, who play an important role in society, in the family and particularly in the upbringing of children,

"Bearing in mind the need to provide special protection of women and children belonging to civilian population,

"Solemnly proclaims the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict, the text of which is set out below, and calls for the strict observance of the Declaration by all States Members of the United Nations.

"1. Attacks and bombings on the civilian population inflicting incalculable suffering, especially on women and children, who are the most vulnerable members of the population, shall be prohibited, and such acts shall be condemned.

"2. The use of chemical and bacteriological weapons in the course of military operations constitute one of the most flagrant violations of the 1925 Geneva Protocol, the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the principles of international humanitarian law and inflict heavy losses on civilian populations, including defenceless women and children, and shall be severely condemned.

"3. All States shall abide fully by their obligations under the 1925 Geneva Protocol and the 1949 Geneva Conventions, as well as other instruments of international law relative to respect for human rights in armed conflicts, which offer important guarantees for the protection of women and children.

"4. All efforts shall be made by States involved in armed conflicts, military operations in foreign territories and in territories still under colonial domination to spare women and children from the ravages of war. All the necessary steps shall be taken to ensure the prohibition of measures such as: persecution, torture, punitive measures, degrading treatment and violence, particularly against that part of the civilian population that consists of women and children.

"5. All forms of repression and cruel and inhuman treatment of women and children, including imprisonment, torture, shooting, mass arrests, collective punishment, destruction of dwellings and forcible eviction, committed by belligerents in the course of military operations or in occupied territories shall be considered criminal.

"6. Women and children belonging to the civilian population and finding themselves in circumstances of emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence, or who live in occupied territories, shall not be deprived of shelter, food, medical aid or other inalienable rights, in accordance with the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Declaration of the Rights of the Child or other instruments of international law."

/Approved at the 623rd meeting,
30 January 1974/

XIV

Influence of mass communication media on the
formation of new attitudes towards the roles
of women in present-day society 18/

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting that the preliminary report of the Secretary-General on the influence of mass communication media (E/CN.6/581) substantiates the concern expressed by the Commission in its resolution 1 (XXIV) of 18 February 1972 that in several countries the mass communication media perpetuate the traditional deep-rooted attitudes held by women and men about their respective roles in present-day society, and that the influence of the mass communication media in the determination of cultural patterns hinders efforts to promote equal rights of women and men and the integration of women in the development effort,

Bearing in mind that the majority of the Governments and non-governmental organizations which supplied information for the preparation of the preliminary report stated that additional research was needed on this subject,

Recalling that in its resolution 1 (XXIV), the Commission on the Status of Women requested the Secretary-General to invite the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to consider the possibility of carrying out interdisciplinary studies on the subject,

1. Expresses the hope that this subject will be discussed at future seminars to be organized under the technical co-operation programme of the United Nations with the participation of experts in all the relevant fields;

18/ See paragraphs 252-259.

2. Invites the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in co-operation with the United Nations to consider the possibility sometime in the future of carrying out pilot country studies on this question in conjunction with the interdisciplinary studies mentioned above;

2. Invites all the organizations of the United Nations system and particularly the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to make a special effort to increase their audio-visual material and to develop their programmes in such a way as to promote the integration of women in development;

4. Invites Governments to urge the mass media, while having due regard to freedom of expression, to adapt their programmes in order to provide for men as well as women a continuing education as to their economic and professional prospects and opportunities for leisure, family life and broadening horizons;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a progress report on the influence of mass communication media on attitudes towards the roles of women and men in present-day society based on information available to him and to submit it to the Commission at its twenty-sixth session.

/Approved at the 624th meeting,
30 January 1974/

B. Other decisions

2. The Commission on the Status of Women made a number of decisions which might be of interest to the Economic and Social Council. They are indicated in the following paragraphs.

Consideration of proposals concerning a new instrument or instruments of international law to eliminate discrimination against women

3. At its 615th meeting, on 24 January 1974, the Commission decided in principle, by a vote of 22 to none, with 4 abstentions, that a single comprehensive draft convention on the elimination of discrimination against women should be prepared without prejudice to the preparation of any future instrument or instruments which might be elaborated either by the United Nations or by the specialized agencies dealing with discrimination in specific fields (see paragraph 84; for the resolution by which the Commission invited the Secretary-General to call on Governments, inter alia, to transmit their comments on the draft convention contained in the report (E/CN.6/574) of the Working Group established under Commission resolution 5 (XXIV), see paragraph 278).

Communications concerning the status of women

4. At its 626th meeting, on 31 January 1974, the Commission decided, by 11 votes to 5, with 10 abstentions, that in future, communications relating to the status of women should be considered in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) and that this question should be deleted from the Commission's work programme (see paragraph 123).

Study on the interrelationship of the status of
women and family planning

5. At its 621st meeting, on 29 January 1974, the Commission decided to request the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of the Population Commission at its forthcoming session draft resolution VI (see paragraph 1 above), together with the report of the Special Rapporteur (E/CN.6/575 and Add.1-3) and the summary records of the discussion of the item in the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/SR.606-608 and 621), so that they might be taken into consideration in the drafting of the World Population Plan of Action (see paragraph 143).

Programme of work and establishment of priorities

6. At its 623rd meeting, on 30 January 1974, the Commission took note of paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1787 (LIV), inviting it to consider, as appropriate, the publication entitled The Study of Discrimination against Persons Born Out of Wedlock 19/ together with the draft general principles on equality and non-discrimination in respect of such persons. The Commission recalled that it had already examined those principles in 1967, when, in its resolution 6 (XX), it had expressed support of the draft principles and initiated the preparation of a study on the status of the unmarried mother. 20/ This had led to the adoption by the Council in 1972 in its resolution 1679 (LII) of a set of general principles to eliminate discrimination against the unmarried mother. In the light of the foregoing, the Commission considered that it was unnecessary for it to take further action with respect to Council resolution 1787 (LIV) (see paragraph 276).

19/ United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.68.XIV.3.

20/ The Status of the Unmarried Mother: Law and Practice (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 71.IV.4).

II. INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR 21/

7. The Commission considered item 3 of its agenda, on the programme activities for the International Women's Year to be celebrated in 1975, at its 601st, 602nd, 620th, 627th and 628th meetings. It had before it a report on the subject prepared by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/576).

8. In introducing the report, the representative of the Secretary-General said that the draft programme had been prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 3010 (XXVII) and was based on the replies from 20 Governments, 5 specialized agencies and 23 non-governmental organizations. She drew the Commission's attention to the organization of the programme which elaborated the significance of the Year including its central theme, EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE, specific objectives of the Year, activities at the national, regional and international levels, and finally, suggested topics for research and seminars. She further pointed out that the programme was as broadly based as possible and aimed at providing countries with a choice of activities which they could undertake on a realistic basis. It was important for members to realize that the success of the programme would depend to a large extent on adequate funding.

9. Many representatives were convinced that the Year had far-reaching international significance for women and for society as a whole. The celebration was especially timely since, despite the comparative improvement in the status of women in several parts of the world, many handicaps still existed. Several representatives felt that one of the prime functions of the Year was to draw attention to those inequalities which still existed. They expressed wide support for the comprehensive nature of the draft programme contained in the Secretary-General's report and particularly for the excellent guidelines which it proposed for implementing the objectives of the Year on the national, regional and international levels. Some representatives welcomed the fact that both women and men were urged to participate in the programme at all levels and that the participation of men was essential to the success of the Year.

10. The central theme, EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE was considered to be an appropriate reflection of the principles contained in General Assembly resolution 3010 (XXVII) and in other United Nations instruments relating to the status and condition of women. Moreover, some representatives thought that the programme adequately illustrated that the Year will provide an opportunity not merely for appraising progress so far made with respect to the achievement of equality for women and the implementation of their fundamental human rights, since the adoption of the United Nations Charter in 1945, but also for planning for their future needs in long-term programmes. In reality, the Year was felt to mark the launching of a new stage in the development of women's role in society and to stimulate new initiatives at the national, regional and international levels.

21/ Summary records of the discussion of this item were provided.

11. Although comparatively few Governments had replied to the Secretary-General's request for comments on the proposed programme, several representatives stated that that in no way indicated a lack of interest in the Year. Indeed, from the experience in their countries, a number of steps had already been taken, in some instances at the highest level, to set in motion machinery for organizing activities for the Year. In some countries, for example, interministerial committees had been established to plan the preparations; in others, special seminars were being organized and obsolete laws reviewed.

12. In commenting on part II of the draft programme, entitled "Specific objectives", some representatives stressed particular aspects of the problems facing women. Those specifically mentioned included the elimination of unemployment, underemployment and illiteracy, the provision of appropriate educational and training opportunities as well as vocational guidance for women and girls, the implementation of the principle of equal pay for work of equal value, better conditions of work for the working women and the need for reconsidering the attitudes towards traditional roles of women and men in society. The question of attitudes was discussed by a number of representatives who pointed out the need not only to change traditional societal attitudes but also to imbue women themselves with a feeling of confidence by equipping them to fill important roles in society.

13. Some members also pointed out the necessity of eliminating obstacles to over-all development caused by racism, racial discrimination, colonialism and imperialism. The opinion was expressed that reference should be made to the role women might play in the programme of activities for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination contained in General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII). Some representatives also felt that it was important to draw the attention of Governments to the need to publicize and ratify certain existing international instruments relative to women and to consider the elaboration of a draft declaration on the protection of women and children in emergency or in time of war or of the struggle for peace, national liberation and independence, as well as the adoption of a convention on the elimination of discrimination against women.

14. With regard to the achievement of world peace, the view was expressed that women could more effectively contribute to its achievement and maintenance and to the détente.

15. During the discussion of measures to be taken at the international level, several representatives supported the idea of holding a world-wide conference or symposium as one of the focal points of the Year. In the opinion of some representatives such an international conference should be held in consultation with Governments, specialized agencies and interested non-governmental organizations to examine progress made in the field of equality for women and to consider future programmes for enhancing the contribution of women to development, particularly in the context of the Second United Nations Development Decade.

16. Several representatives emphasized the importance of publicizing the goals and objectives of the Year. Such promotional and educational activities were regarded as essential to the success of the Year, particularly for the majority of women who lived in rural areas or who were educationally, socially and economically disadvantaged. It was also pointed out that an exchange of information between women of developing and developed countries could be valuable and would promote

greater understanding and solidarity among women irrespective of the degree of development of their countries, and meaningful assistance programmes could thereby be developed.

17. The studies and surveys contained in the annex to the draft programme were generally endorsed. In this regard, the representative of Argentina announced to the Commission that her Government had invited the United Nations to organize a seminar in Buenos Aires in 1975. The seminar would consider the integration of women in economic and social life. The representative of Romania said that her Government intended to invite the United Nations to organize a seminar in her country during the Year, on a subject to be determined. It was also suggested that the findings of existing studies should be disseminated as widely as possible and particularly among universities and social science institutes in order to remove further obstacles.

18. It was generally agreed that one of the key factors in the success of the Year and of long-term programmes was to ensure adequate funding. Women's organizations were unable to provide the necessary funding and they should urge political leaders not only to support the Year in principle but to provide adequate funding. In this connexion, several representatives remarked with regret that the Year was inadequately funded under the regular budget of the United Nations, that no extrabudgetary funds were available, and that there was a great discrepancy between funds allocated to the International Women's Year and other Years, notably, the World Population Year. Other representatives expressed concern about the United Nations budget.

19. Another important factor for the implementation of programmes for the Year and beyond related to co-operation among the United Nations bodies and regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. A special effort should be made during the Year to explore every channel of communication and to discuss problems relating to women as widely as possible. It was felt that the resident representatives of UNDP had a unique role to play in this regard and should be encouraged to have greater contact with non-governmental organizations on the national level.

20. The representative of the ILO made a statement in which she outlined the proposed contribution of the ILO to the International Women's Year. Among the many activities planned was the inclusion of the question of equality of opportunity and treatment for women workers in the agenda of the 1975 International Labour Conference. In addition, a special issue of the International Labour Review would be devoted to women and the main themes of the Year, and plans had been approved for further study of the question of equal remuneration with special attention to equality of opportunity and treatment for women and for revised recommendations on professional guidance and training. She pledged the full support of the ILO in giving technical material and expertise.

21. The representative of UNESCO spoke of steps taken by that body to prepare for the Year. A special task force had been established and the work for 1975 and 1976 of the Section for Equal Education Opportunities for Girls and Women was designed to fit the theme of the International Women's Year. Three special projects would investigate the relationship between the education, training and employment opportunities open to women, the working mother and her role in early childhood education, and women's efforts for peace. UNESCO also intended to work jointly with the ILO to pinpoint obstacles facing girls at the primary-school level and to devise strategies for overcoming those problems.

22. The representative of WHO said that his Organization hoped to make a positive contribution to the Year. He further informed the Commission that there would be a special issue of World Health, devoted to the theme of the Year, and a background paper on health and nutrition in relation to the interation of women in various development sectors, including the rural sector.

23. The representative of FAO described programmes scheduled for the Year. These included promotion of special agricultural and rural development activities in the field and the issue of a Ceres medal depicting a distinguished woman. An interdisciplinary task force in which women participated to ensure that their needs were taken into account had also been established within the FAO secretariat.

24. The representative of ECA described the Women's Programme of the Human Resources Development Division of ECA, which was a very comprehensive one. Three projects which had direct relation to the Year concerned national commissions on women and development and women's bureaux, the African Women's Development Task Force which would be a volunteer corps, and the Pan-African Women's Centre, which would offer regional training.

25. The representative of UNICEF said that his organization also supported the objectives of the Year and looked forward to working closely with the organizers of the Year at United Nations Headquarters since a number of the planned activities coincided with UNICEF's ongoing programmes.

Establishment of a working group and consideration of its report

26. At its 602nd meeting, on 15 January 1974, the Commission decided to establish a working group to elaborate further details of the draft programme contained in the Secretary-General's report (E/CN.6/576) and to strengthen its provisions, taking into account suggestions made by members in the general debate and those submitted in writing. The Working Group was composed of the representatives of Argentina, Belgium, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Greece, India, Indonesia, Liberia, Nizeria, the Philippines, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America.

27. The Working Group held seven meetings, on 16, 24, 25, 28 and 29 January 1974. At its first meeting, the Working Group elected Erica Daes (Greece) as Chairman and Blanca Stabile de Machinandiarena (Argentina) as Rapporteur.

28. The Working Group made a number of suggestions and amendments to the draft programme appearing in the report of the Secretary-General and approved a draft resolution proposed by Greece and co-sponsored by Argentina (E/CN.6/WG.1/CRP.4). The report of the Working Group (E/CN.6/588) was submitted to the Commission at its 627th meeting, on 31 January 1974.

29. In introducing the report, the Rapporteur of the Working Group pointed out that it had considered a great number of amendments (E/CN.6/WG.1/CRP.1, Corr.1 and Add.1, E/CN.6/WG.1/CRP.2, 3, 6 and 8) and draft resolutions (E/CN.6/WG.1/CRP.4 and 7) submitted by many members of the Commission to the basic working document (E/CN.6/576). She also said that the Working Group had basically redrafted, further elaborated and strengthened the draft programme for the International Women's Year. She further indicated that the Group had decided to refer

paragraphs 29 (on an international conference or meeting) and 31 (on the insertion of an item on women on the agenda of the General Assembly at its thirtieth session) to the Commission for its decision. Those paragraphs were therefore placed in square brackets, pending decisions taken by the Commission on draft resolution E/CN.6/L.658 and the amendments thereto (E/CN.6/L.659).

30. The Chairman of the Working Group made a number of oral corrections to the text of the draft programme recommended by the Group (E/CN.6/588, para. 8). She also reminded the Commission that no decision had so far been taken on the establishment of a fund for voluntary contributions to assist in financing the activities of the Year. In her opinion, such a decision was vital to the success of the Year.

31. The Commission approved the draft programme with the amendments and corrections indicated in the following paragraphs.

32. The first part of the introduction to the draft programme, which was a quotation of the fifth preambular paragraph of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (General Assembly resolution 2263 (XXII)) was given in full:

"Considering that discrimination against women is incompatible with human dignity and with the welfare of the family and of society, prevents their participation, on equal terms with men, in the political, social, economic and cultural life of their countries and is an obstacle to the full development of the potentialities of women in the service of their countries and of humanity."

33. In subparagraph 8 (c), the words "equal pay for" were inserted between the words "right to" and "work of equal value".

34. Subparagraph 8 (r), under section C ("Peace") became the first subparagraph - 8 (f) - under section B ("Development"), the subsequent subparagraphs were renumbered accordingly.

35. Under section C, the words "and apartheid and racial discrimination" were added at the end of item (i) of subparagraph 8 (u). This subparagraph then became subparagraph 8 (r) and the following subparagraphs were renumbered accordingly.

36. Subparagraph 8 (s) was replaced by the following:

"(s) Participation of women in a safeguarding of peace which would promote economic, social, cultural and political conditions that contribute to the advancement of the status of women and men;"

37. In subparagraph 8 (v), the words "having due regard for their sovereignty and non-intervention in their domestic affairs" were inserted after the words "ideas among countries".

38. At the end of paragraph 10, the words "on this section" were replaced by "on part II ("Objectives and goals"), section B ("Development") above".

39. In paragraph 17, the words "and responsibilities" were inserted between the words "women's rights" and "and the causes".

40. A new paragraph 30 was inserted, reading as follows:

"30. An appeal should be made to Governments of countries in the different regions to establish regional commissions on the status of women and to organize within existing intergovernmental and similar organizations, programmes for women aimed at their full integration in national and regional development which would:

"(a) Place special emphasis on relieving the burdens and increasing the economic output of rural women engaged in agriculture, on providing facilities for food preservation and processing, on child care and also on providing co-operative education;

"(b) Co-operate with interested United Nations bodies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, particularly with the Commission on the Status of Women;

"(c) Provide in industrialized areas advice and services aimed at improving working conditions, family life and participation in all aspects of regional development."

The following paragraphs were renumbered accordingly.

41. Some representatives felt that the oral amendment to introduce a new paragraph 30 should be submitted in writing. The Chairman therefore called for a vote under rule 51 of the rules of procedure of the Functional Commissions of the Economic and Social Council. The motion was rejected by 2 votes to 17, with 3 abstentions.

42. In paragraph 33, the words "regional economic commissions and" were amended to read "regional intergovernmental organizations, regional economic commissions and"; the words "programmes and offices" were replaced by "programmes and commissions or offices".

43. In paragraph 34 the words "the adoption of an international instrument or instruments" were replaced by "the elaboration of a new international convention".

44. In paragraph 35 the words "in order to elaborate a United Nations instrument" was replaced by "to adopt a declaration".

45. A centred heading reading "Secretariats of the United Nations system" was inserted above paragraph 39.

46. Paragraph 39, subparagraphs (a), (b), and (c), were amended to read:

"(a) Eliminating from their own staff regulations and administrative procedures and provisions or practices which may be discriminatory against women;

"(b) Organizing more extensive training and refresher courses for staff members;

"(c) Associating interested staff members in the implementation of the International Women's Year programmes;"

Consideration of draft resolutions and voting

47. At its 627th meeting, on 31 January 1974, the Commission considered a draft resolution on the programme for the International Women's Year as it appeared in paragraph 9 of the report of the Working Group established for that purpose (E/CN.6/588).
48. At the same meeting, the Commission approved by consensus the programme for the Year as amended. It also approved, by 20 votes to none, with 3 abstentions, the draft resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council. [For the text, see chapter I, draft resolution I.]
49. In explaining his votes, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics said that he had abstained on the vote to adopt the programme for the International Women's Year because of the uncertainty which his delegation felt about paragraphs 29 and 31 of the Working Group's report, which had been placed in square brackets (see paragraph 29 above). He also felt, as did also the representative of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, that the new paragraph 30 proposed orally by the representatives of France, Liberia and Nigeria should have been submitted in writing to allow members of the Commission more time to study the text. The representative of Japan said that she had abstained in the vote owing to the large number of oral amendments which were made to their own report by some of the members of the Working Group.
50. At its 627th and 628th meetings the Commission considered draft resolution E/CN.6/L.675. In introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors which also included Indonesia, Japan, Kenya and Nigeria, the representative of Liberia emphasized the importance of establishing a fund for voluntary contributions to assist in financing the activities for the International Women's Year.
51. In replying to a question posed by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics concerning operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, the representative of the Secretary-General stated that the Secretary-General was authorized to accept voluntary funds from private individuals. This procedure had been followed in similar cases and, in fact, one such contribution for the Year had already been accepted.
52. The representatives of Guinea and the Philippines announced that their countries had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.
53. At its 628th meeting, on 1 February 1974, the Commission approved by consensus the draft resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council. [For the text, see chapter I, draft resolution II.]
54. At the same meeting, the Commission considered draft resolution E/CN.6/L.658/Rev.2. It was introduced by the representative of the United States of America on behalf of the sponsors which were Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, the Philippines, Thailand and the United States of America.
55. The representative of the USSR introduced amendments (E/CN.6/L.659) to the draft resolution. He said that his delegation had doubts as to whether the Commission could make a financial commitment to organize an international conference after the Economic and Social Council had approved its calendar of conferences and after funds for the next budgetary period had been approved.

56. Speaking on behalf of the sponsors of the draft resolution, the representative of the United States accepted the first USSR amendment to add a new paragraph between the first and second preambular paragraphs of the draft. She said that she could also support the second amendment providing that it was proposed as an addition to the operative paragraphs of the draft, rather than as a replacement for them.

57. An oral modification was proposed by Greece concerning the second USSR amendment, whereby the beginning of the quoted passage would read "Review of the situation" instead of "The situation". However, she stated that her amendment stood only if the sponsors would agree to add the paragraph to the draft resolution as the representative of the United States had just suggested. The representative of the USSR said that his delegation could not agree to that suggestion.

58. The representative of the United Kingdom submitted an oral amendment to the second USSR amendment to delete the entire phrase after the words "of the Second Development Decade". This amendment was subsequently withdrawn.

59. The second USSR amendment was rejected by the Commission by 14 votes to 3, with 12 abstentions.

60. In discussing the conference proposed in the draft resolution some members of the Commission expressed concern about the administrative and financial implications which appeared in a note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/L.674). Other members also expressed concern that the words "by a reordering of priorities from within available resources" in operative paragraph 2 of the draft might adversely affect the priority given to technical assistance programmes requiring urgent implementation in developing countries. In this connexion, the representative of Indonesia proposed to delete the words "by a reordering of priorities". This amendment was subsequently withdrawn. The representative of the Secretary-General pointed out that sources of funds for technical co-operation activities were separate and independent of funds that would be allocated to cover the costs of the proposed conference.

61. A great number of representatives supported the proposal for an international conference in 1975 as the main focal point of the Year and expressed the hope that the Secretary-General would make sufficient funds available. A few representatives hoped that the conference would be held in a developing country. The representative of Colombia announced that her Government was offering to host the international conference. In warmly thanking the representative of Colombia, the Chairman noted that other interested Governments who were considering the possibility of hosting the conference were still free to extend an invitation.

62. On the request of the representative of the Dominican Republic, a roll-call vote was taken on draft resolution E/CN.6/L.658/Rev.2. At its 628th meeting the Commission approved the draft resolution, as amended, by 21 votes to 3, with 6 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Argentina, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Greece, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Liberia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Philippines, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against: Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Hungary, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Abstentions: Belgium, Finland, France, Guinea, Romania, Zaire.

[For the text, see chapter I, draft resolution III.]

III. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS CONCERNING A NEW INSTRUMENT
OR INSTRUMENTS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW TO ELIMINATE
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN 22/

63. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 613th to 616th and 618th meetings.

64. It had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/573) which, in accordance with Commission resolution 5 (XXIV), took into account the views or proposals of Governments concerning the nature and content of a new instrument or instruments of international law to eliminate discrimination against women.

65. The Commission based its consideration of this item on the report of the Working Group (E/CN.6/574) established under resolution 5 (XXIV), with the mandate to "begin work on the preparation of a new draft instrument or instruments ... in the light of the Governments' replies and of the Secretary-General's report".

66. As provided by the resolution, the Working Group met five days before the beginning of the twenty-fifth session of the Commission and was composed of the following 15 Commission members elected by the Economic and Social Council at its 1856th and 1877th meetings: Canada, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Finland, Hungary, Indonesia, 23/ Liberia, 23/ Nigeria, the Philippines, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Zaire.

Proceedings of the Working Group

67. The Working Group held 11 meetings from 7 to 11 and on 18 January 1974. At its first meeting, the Working Group unanimously elected the following officers: Chairman, Licelott de Barrios (Dominican Republic); Vice-Chairman, Hanna Bokor (Hungary); Rapporteur, Aziza Hussein (Egypt).

68. The Working Group also unanimously adopted at its first meeting the provisional agenda (E/CN.6/AC.1/L.1), drawn up by the Secretary-General, which included two substantive items, as follows:

"1. Consideration of proposals concerning a new instrument or instruments of international law to eliminate discrimination against women;

"2. Preparation of a new instrument or instruments."

69. At its second meeting the Working Group decided by consensus to recommend to the Commission on the Status of Women the preparation of a draft single

22/ Summary records of the discussion of this item were provided.

23/ The representatives of Indonesia and Liberia were unable to attend the meetings of the Working Group.

comprehensive convention on the elimination of discrimination against women without prejudice to recommendations concerning the preparation of any future instrument (or instruments) which might be elaborated either by the United Nations or by the specialized agencies, especially as regards discrimination in specific fields.

70. The Working Group had before it the working paper of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/573) summarizing the replies of Governments with respect to the elaboration of a new instrument or instruments of international law to eliminate discrimination against women and reviewing also the possible content of such instrument or instruments. An annex to the working paper contained the text of a draft convention prepared by the Philippines in response to the Secretary-General's invitation to Member States to transmit their views or proposals concerning the nature and content of a new instrument or instruments (*ibid.*, annex I). The Philippine representative stated however that the views of the Philippines contained therein were of a preliminary nature and should in no way bind the Philippine Government at this stage.

71. The representative of the USSR submitted to the Working Group a draft convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (E/CN.6/AC.1/L.2).

72. In order that the Working Group would have a working paper for a draft convention, the representatives of the Philippines and the USSR submitted a common draft of the general provisions, including the definition of the term "discrimination against women" and of the substantive articles of the draft convention, and proposed that the title should read: "Draft convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women" (see E/CN.6/AC.1/L.4 and Corr.1, E/CN.6/AC.1/L.4/Add.1/Rev.1, E/CN.6/AC.1/L.4/Add.2-4). Draft proposals concerning the measures of implementation of the draft convention were submitted by the representatives of Egypt, Nigeria and Zaire (E/CN.6/AC.1/L.5). The Working Group used these texts as basic documents.

Issues discussed in the Commission

73. In introducing the report of the Working Group (E/CN.6/574) the Rapporteur noted that the Group had studied the views of Governments submitted in compliance with resolution 5 (XXIV) of the Commission and summarized by the Secretary-General in his working paper (E/CN.6/573), and had presented to the Commission the text of a draft convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. The Rapporteur explained that the Working Group had been greatly assisted in its task by the aforementioned draft submitted jointly by the representatives of the Philippines and the USSR and that, where there was disagreement, alternative or additional proposals appeared in square brackets in the report of the Working Group.

74. During the debate in the Commission several representatives noted that they needed more time to study the draft convention and its relationship to other conventions. The opinion was expressed that the Commission should have a general discussion on the question of whether or not there was a need for a convention before it attempted to consider the individual articles contained in the report of the Working Group.

75. Many representatives expressed the opinion that the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, though comprehensive, had no binding character, and therefore a single comprehensive convention would be very desirable.

76. Some representatives drew the attention of the Commission to the small number of ratifications of the existing international conventions on women's rights and underlined the necessity to appeal to Governments to ratify and to adhere to all of these as soon as possible.

77. As far as the content of a single comprehensive convention was concerned, many representatives expressed the opinion that the new convention should avoid detailed and specific provisions in order to encourage the maximum number of ratifications.

78. The view was expressed that, subject to certain important but comparatively minor modifications and amendments, the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women fulfilled the criteria for an acceptable convention. The temptation to add more detailed clauses to the Declaration should be resisted, so as to avoid difficulties for countries which wished to apply the general provisions in different ways. The opposite opinion was also expressed, however, that, though some of the provisions of the proposed draft convention might not be acceptable to all countries because of their existing legislations, the convention should be seen as a challenge and national legislations should in course of time be brought into conformity with those provisions.

79. It was also said that some of the articles proposed for the draft convention in the report of the Working Group were wider in scope than the existing ILO conventions. This was considered natural in view of the time that had elapsed since their adoption and of the fact that women had in the meantime improved their status and acquired more rights.

80. As regards the privileges, benefits and protection to be accorded to women, the opinions of representatives were divided. Some members did not consider that women should be given special privileges, or protection, which had often resulted in discrimination against them. They believed that women should press for equal rights and opportunities with men, not special treatment. Others considered that it would hardly be possible to deprive women of the special privileges and benefits to which they were already entitled under the ILO and UNESCO conventions, and that it was the duty of States to protect women as mothers and to ensure the physical and moral health of future generations. It was also pointed out that women in many countries had won the right to such privileges, benefits and protection after a long struggle and should not now be deprived of them. Other representatives stressed that maternity must be viewed as a social function and should be protected by the State.

81. With respect to the implementation of the draft convention it was noted that some representatives in the Working Group had suggested the establishment of a committee to review the application of the convention, while others felt that the Commission itself should assume that responsibility. Some Commission members feared that the creation of a committee would deprive the Commission of competence with respect to the application of the convention and this might be used as an excuse to do away with the Commission.

82. Several representatives expressed the view that the adoption of a convention on elimination of all forms of discrimination against women in 1975 would be a valuable contribution to the International Women's Year. Other representatives argued that such an objective, though laudable in itself, was unrealistic. While some representatives stated that they were very satisfied with the work of the Working Group, despite the limited time it had had at its disposal, others expressed the view that the result of the Working Group's deliberations were disappointing, since consensus had been reached on only a few articles.

83. It was pointed out that the amendments which had been submitted to the Philippine-USSR working paper had not been adopted by the Working Group and appeared in square brackets in the report. The Commission was asked to examine these texts carefully, since some representatives felt that their inclusion would weaken the draft convention, and lower the standards set. The Commission was also urged to go beyond the standards set by existing ILO conventions. Other representatives stressed that on the contrary the texts appearing in square brackets should not be regarded as amendments, but as alternative texts with equal status and equal value, in view of the fact that no vote had been taken in the Working Group; nor had a consensus been reached on them.

Decisions, consideration of draft resolution and voting

84. At its 615th meeting, on 24 January 1974, the Commission decided in principle, by a vote of 22 to none, with 4 abstentions, that a single comprehensive draft convention should be prepared, without prejudice to the preparation of any future instrument or instruments which might be elaborated either by the United Nations or by the specialized agencies dealing with discrimination in specific fields.

85. The Commission noted at the same meeting that the Working Group had decided not to vote on any articles. Where the Working Group did not reach a consensus and alternative texts were proposed or recommendations made or reservations expressed, that was reflected in connexion with the relevant articles. The Commission noted also that some proposals were incorporated in articles of the working paper prepared by the Philippines and the USSR and that several alternative proposals were shown in square brackets in the report of the Working Group. The text resulting from the Working Group's deliberations is reproduced in paragraph 91 below.

86. Belgium, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica and France submitted a draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.667), of which Liberia subsequently became a co-sponsor. Introducing the draft resolution at the 618th meeting of the Commission the representative of Colombia proposed that the draft convention should be sent to Governments for study and comment so as to enable the Commission to adopt a final text at its twenty-sixth session.

87. Many representatives supported that proposal. It was stated, however, that the report of the Working Group (E/CN.6/574) needed some clarification before being sent to Governments. Some representatives expressed the opinion that the draft convention should be sent to Governments with the texts in square brackets retained, together with the record of the discussion in the Commission. Other representatives felt that the report should be forwarded without the square brackets. Still another view was that the square brackets be deleted, but that

the names of the delegations that had put forward alternative texts be added. In view of the fact that there had been a consensus in the Working Group not to give the names of representatives proposing amendments to the original text that idea was not supported by the Commission.

88. The majority of representatives were of the opinion that the Commission as a whole was not yet ready to discuss the draft convention article by article as there would not be enough time to complete the consideration of it.

89. At its 618th meeting, on 25 January 1974, the Commission unanimously adopted the draft resolution, as revised by the sponsors (E/CN.6/L.667/Rev.1). For the text, see chapter XII, resolution 1 (XXV).

90. The representative of Hungary drew attention to paragraph 28 of the report of the Working Group, on the question of regulating the relationship of the proposed new convention to existing conventions. In the absence of any objection, it was agreed that the draft articles which would be sent to Governments should be supplemented by the draft provision proposed by Hungary on this question (see additional paragraph of article 17 below).

91. The draft articles resulting from the deliberations of the Working Group and the decisions of the Commission outlined above are as follows:

DRAFT CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN 24/

PREAMBLE

The States Parties to this Convention,

Noting that the Charter of the United Nations reaffirmed faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women,

Convinced that the full development of every country and the welfare of the world require the creation of the essential conditions for the maximum participation of women in all fields of government and public life,

Bearing in mind that the scientific and technical revolution has broadened the possibilities for the use of female labour and the improvement of their skills,

Bearing in mind the great contribution made by women to the creation of the material and spiritual values of society, the social significance of motherhood and the role of women in the family and, in particular, in the rearing of children,

24/ Some representatives preferred the same title as that of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

Considering that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms the principle of the inadmissibility of discrimination and proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind, including distinction based on sex,

Considering that under the International Covenants on Human Rights States have the obligation to secure the equal right of men and women to enjoy all economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights,

Considering that discrimination against women is contrary to the principle of equality of rights and is incompatible with the human dignity of women, is an obstacle to the participation of women, on equal terms with men, in the political, social, economic and cultural life of their countries, hampers the growth of the prosperity of society and the family and makes more difficult the full development of the potentialities of women in the service of their countries and of humanity,

Concerned at the continued existence in many parts of the world of discrimination against women,

Considering the Conventions concluded under the auspices of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, and

Considering the resolutions, declarations and recommendations adopted by them with a view to promoting equality of rights of men and women,

Determined to take all necessary measures to eliminate as rapidly as possible all discrimination against women,

Desiring to co-operate in giving effect to the principles set forth in the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women,

Have agreed upon the following:

Alternative text of the preamble

Considering that the people of the United Nations reaffirm their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women,

Considering that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights asserts the principle of non-discrimination and proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind, including any distinction as to sex,

Taking into account the resolutions, declarations, conventions and recommendations of the United Nations and the specialized agencies designed to eliminate all forms of discrimination and to promote equal rights for men and women,

Concerned that, despite the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other instruments of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and despite the progress made in the matter of equality of rights, there continues to exist considerable discrimination against women,

Considering that discrimination against women is incompatible with human dignity and with the welfare of the family and of society, prevents their participation on equal terms with men, in the political, social, economic and cultural life of their countries and is an obstacle to the full development of the potentialities of women in the service of their countries and of humanity,

Bearing in mind the great contribution made by women to social, political, economic and cultural life and the part they play in the family and particularly in the rearing of children,

Convinced that the full and complete development of a country, the welfare of the world and the cause of peace require the maximum participation of women as men in all fields,

Considering that it is necessary to ensure the universal recognition in law and in fact of the principle of equality of men and women,

Solemnly proclaim this Declaration: /

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

In this Convention, the term "discrimination against women" shall mean any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect of or the purpose of nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any field of public life.

Alternative text of article 1

/The term "discrimination" for the purposes of this Convention shall mean any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, on an equal footing with men, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life./

Article 2

States Parties condemn discrimination against women and undertake to pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating discrimination against women in all its forms, denying or limiting as it does their equality of rights with men, and to this end:

(a) Each State Party shall prohibit and bring to an end, by all appropriate means, including legislation, discrimination against women and undertake to establish adequate legal protection for equal rights of men and women, and to give effect to the rights recognized in this Convention where existing legislative or other measures are not sufficient for the purpose and in particular: each State Party shall embody the principle of equality of rights in its Constitution, if not yet incorporated, or shall guarantee by law, the practical realization of this principle;

(b) Each State Party undertakes to engage in no act or practice of discrimination against women and to ensure that public authorities and public institutions, national and local, shall act in conformity with this obligation:

(c) Each State Party undertakes not to sponsor, defend or support discrimination against women by any person or organizations;

(d) Each State Party shall take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to nullify or abolish existing laws, customs, regulations and practices which are discriminatory to women.

Alternative text of article 2

/States Parties condemn discrimination against women and undertake to pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating discrimination against women in all its forms, denying or limiting as it does their equality of rights with men./

Article 3

States Parties shall undertake, in the social, economic, cultural and other fields, all appropriate measures to ensure the adequate development and advancement of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality with men.

Article 4 25/

1. The establishment of special temporary conditions for women aimed at establishing de facto equality shall not be considered discriminatory.
2. Measures undertaken for the protection of women at certain branches of work due to their physical nature and for the /promotion of the welfare of mothers/ 26/ shall not be interpreted as violating the principle of equality of rights of men and women.

25/ Several members of the Working Group proposed the deletion of this article.

26/ One representative expressed reservations concerning this phrase.

Article 5

1. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to educate public opinion and to direct national aspirations towards the eradication of prejudice and the abolition of customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority of women, or on stereotyped roles for women, and for the recognition that the protection of motherhood is a common interest of the entire society which should bear responsibilities for it.

2. Any advocacy of the superiority of one sex over the other and of discrimination on the basis of sex shall be prohibited by law. 27/

Alternative text of article 5

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to educate public opinion and to direct national aspirations towards the eradication of prejudices and the abolition of customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority of women, or on stereotyped roles for women.

Article 6

Each State Party agrees to repeal all provisions of national penal codes which constitute discrimination against women.

Article 7

Each State Party agrees to take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to combat all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women.

POLITICAL RIGHTS

Article 8

States Parties shall undertake all appropriate measures to ensure to women on equal terms with men, without any discrimination, equal opportunities to participate in the political and public life of the country, and in particular:

(a) To vote in all elections and be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies;

(b) To participate in the formulation of government policy and the administration thereof and to hold public office at the national and local levels;

27/ Some representatives proposed the deletion or the reformulation of this paragraph on the grounds that it restricted freedom of speech.

(c) To vote in all public referenda;

(d) To participate in non-governmental organizations and associations.

Article 9

1. States Parties shall grant women the same rights as men to acquire, change or retain their nationality and shall require, in particular, that neither marriage of a woman to, nor dissolution of her marriage from, an alien nor the change of nationality by her alien husband during marriage shall automatically change her nationality, render her stateless or force upon her the nationality of her husband.

2. Each State Party agrees that a woman of foreign nationality who is married to a national of its country may, at her request, acquire her husband's nationality through specially privileged naturalization procedures; the grant of such nationality may be subject to limitations as may be imposed in the interests of national security or public policy.

Alternative text of article 9, paragraph 2

2. Each State Party agrees that:

(a) The alien husband or wife of one of its nationals may, at his or her request, acquire the nationality of his or her spouse through specially privileged naturalization procedures; the grant of such nationality may be subject to such limitations as may be imposed in the interests of national security or public policy.

(b) The present Convention shall not be construed as affecting any legislation or judicial practice by which the alien husband or wife of one of its nationals may, at his/her request, acquire his/her spouse's nationality as a matter of right.

3. States Parties agree to grant women equal rights with men to transmit their nationality to their children. 28/

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

Article 10

Each State Party agrees to take all appropriate measures to ensure women, married or unmarried, equal rights with men in the field of education, which education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and the sense of its dignity, and shall strengthen the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and, in particular:

28/ Several representatives expressed reservations on this paragraph.

(a) Equal conditions of access to, and study in educational institutions of all types, in rural as well as in urban areas, including universities, vocational, technical and professional schools, and pre-school institutions;

(b) The same choice of curricula, the same examinations, teaching staff with qualifications of the same standard, and school premises and equipment of the same quality, whether the institutions are co-educational or not;

(c) Equal opportunities to benefit from scholarships and other study grants;

(d) Equal opportunity for access to programmes of continuing education, including adult literacy programmes;

(e) Access to educational information to help in ensuring the health and well-being of families, this to include information on family planning.

Article 11

The States Parties shall adopt all necessary measures to ensure to women, married or unmarried, the same rights and opportunities as men in the field of employment and other social and economic activity and, in particular:

(a) The right to work, which includes the right of all persons to an opportunity to earn their livelihood by work which they freely choose or to which they freely consent and the right to be employed in their field of specialization in accordance with their level of qualifications;

(b) The right to take employment and to continue their activity in the labour force and in professions irrespective of marital status or of spouse's consent;

(c) The right to equal remuneration with men for work of equal value as defined by the relevant Convention of the International Labour Organisation on the subject;

(d) The right, without discrimination on grounds of sex, to receive equal initial or basic vocational training for preparation for employment, and advanced training on an equal footing with men for promotion and in the event of changes in the conditions of production or technical advances and, where necessary, free retraining 29/ and restoration of levels of qualification after an enforced interruption resulting from the fulfilment by women of their maternal obligations;

(e) An equal right to paid annual leave and to material security in case of unemployment, sickness, disability, old age or other incapacity to work; an equal right to old-age pension coverage, option for a lower pensionable age and a shorter period of employment for the award of a pension being established in the case of women;

(f) The right to receive family allowance on equal terms with men;

29/ opportunity for retraining.

(g) The entitlement of women who are employed for an incomplete working day or an incomplete working week, and who receive payment in proportion to the time worked or on the basis of output, to rights, privileges and benefits on the same basis as those granted to full-time workers.

Alternative text 30/

1. States Parties shall adopt all appropriate measures to ensure to women, married or unmarried, equal rights with men in the field of economic and social life and, in particular:

(a) The right, without discrimination on grounds of marital status or any other grounds, to receive vocational training, to work, to free choice of profession and employment and to professional and vocational advancement;

(b) The right to equal remuneration with men and to equality of treatment in respect of work of equal value;

(c) The right to leave with pay, retirement privileges and provision for security in respect of unemployment, sickness, old age or other incapacity to work;

(d) The right to receive family allowances on equal terms with men.

2. In order to prevent discrimination against women on account of marriage or maternity and to ensure their effective right to work States Parties shall undertake measures:

(a) To prevent the dismissal in the event of marriage or maternity;

(b) To encourage the provision of paid maternity leave with the guarantee of returning to former employment;

(c) To encourage the provision of the necessary supportive social services.⁷

Article 12 31/

States Parties undertake to progressively adopt all necessary measures to ensure protection for women workers and, in particular:

1(a) To restrict the employment of women workers in heavy labour and under working conditions that are physically harmful to women;⁷ 32/

(b) To provide appropriate working conditions for pregnant women and nursing mothers, including, where necessary, their transfer to lighter work with retention of the earnings received in their previous employment;

30/ This text was proposed in substitution of articles 11, 12, 13 and 14.

31/ One representative proposed the deletion of this article. See also foot-note 30 above.

32/ Some representatives were not in favour of this clause.

(c) To grant adequate maternity leave with pay equivalent to their earnings and without loss of the job held;

(d) To prohibit the dismissal of women who are taking maternity leave and the dismissal of women because they are pregnant or are nursing a child;

(e) To grant nursing mothers additional paid work breaks to nurse their infants;

(f) To make provision for granting mothers paid leave to care for sick children;

(g) To grant women free medical care during pregnancy, confinement and the post-natal period;

(h) Special assistance to mothers with large families and unwed mothers.

Alternative text of article 12

States Parties undertake progressively to adopt all necessary measures to ensure protection for women workers and, in particular:

(a) To prohibit discrimination against working women because of pregnancy, childbirth or maternity;

(b) To require that absence from work necessitated by complications of pregnancy and childbirth be treated for purposes of employment the same as any other temporary disability is treated under the law and in employer practices;

(c) To encourage the granting of paid leave for parents of either sex for purposes of child care;

(d) To prohibit the dismissal of women who are taking maternity leave and the dismissal of women because they are pregnant or nursing a child;

(e) To make provision for granting parents paid leave to care for sick children;

(f) To encourage the granting of free medical care to women during pregnancy, confinement and the post-natal period;

(g) Special assistance to needy parents.]

Article 13 33/

The States Parties shall adopt all necessary measures to enable women to combine the fulfilment of family and maternal obligations with activity in the labour force, in professions and in public life and shall for that purpose promote the establishment of special institutions, particularly

33/ See foot-note 30 above.

institutions for the care of children of working mothers (crèches, kindergartens, extended day groups for school children, extra-scholastic institutions and the like), either free or subject to a moderate charge for the care of the children.

Alternative text of article 13

The States Parties shall encourage measures to enable parents to combine fulfilment of family parental obligations with activity in the labour force, in professions and in public life and shall for that purpose promote the establishment of child care facilities as needed as a co-operative effort of government, business and industry and other institutions and organizations in the private sector.

Article 14 33/

The provisions of articles 11, 12, 13 and 14 shall apply to all women without exception, who are gainfully employed 34/ in State co-operative, public and private institutions, industrial and non-industrial enterprises and other organizations in agriculture and on plantations, and also to women who perform for any organizations or individuals remunerated work at home or who are gainfully employed in domestic work.

Additional article

In order to safeguard the health and promote the welfare of mothers, States Parties shall undertake progressively to provide for women in connexion with their pregnancies, free medical fare which shall include examination and treatment in the ante- and post-natal periods and during confinement.

CIVIL AND FAMILY RIGHTS

Article 15

1. The States Parties shall accord to women equality with men before the law.
2. The States Parties shall accord to women equal civil and legal capacity with men in all stages of procedure in courts and tribunals.
3. The States Parties agree that all contracts directed at restricting the legal capacity of women shall be deemed null and void.
4. The States Parties shall accord men and women the same rights with regard to the law on the movement of persons and the freedom to choose their residence.

34/ One representative proposed the deletion of these words on the grounds that the provisions of the relevant articles should apply to all women without this qualification.

Article 16

1. The States Parties shall adopt all necessary measures to ensure the full equality of women with men in all matters relating to marriage and family relations, including:

(a) The same right as men to enter into the marriage state;

(b) The same right as men to free choice of a spouse and to enter into marriage only with their free and full consent;

(c) Equal rights and duties with men during marriage and at its dissolution; 35/

(d) Equal rights and duties with men in matters relating to their children except in case of her being a single parent. In all cases the interests of the children shall be paramount; 35/

(e) Recognition of equal rights to be guardians and trustees, and also of an equal right to adopt children;

(f) Provision in law for the equal personal rights of men and women, including the right to choose a family name, profession and occupation;

(g) Recognition of equal rights of men and women in respect of the ownership, use and disposition of their property [while the existence in law of a compulsory régime of conjugal property - community or division - must not entail a reduction or restriction of the property rights of women].

2. Child marriage and the betrothal of young girls before puberty shall be prohibited, and effective action, including legislation, shall be taken to specify a minimum age for marriage and to make the registration of marriages in an official registry compulsory.

3. To eliminate discrimination against unwed mothers and to give effect to the principle proclaimed in the Declaration of the Rights of the Child that all children shall be protected irrespective of the circumstances of their birth, the States Parties shall provide that all children shall enjoy equal rights and equal social protection.

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 17 36/

None of the provisions of this Convention may be regarded as diminishing the significance of the existing domestic legislation of countries if that legislation provides for more extensive rights for women.

35/ One representative expressed reservations concerning this clause.

36/ Some representatives expressed reservations concerning articles 17 to 22.

Additional paragraph of article 17 37/

Nothing in this Convention should affect existing conventions adopted under the auspices of the United Nations or its specialized agencies and having as their object the regulation of various aspects of the status of women.

Article 18

This Convention shall be open for signature by all States. Any State which does not sign the Convention before its entry into force may accede to it at any time.

Article 19

1. A request for the revision of this Convention may be made at any time by any State Party by means of a notification in writing addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
2. The General Assembly of the United Nations shall decide upon the steps, if any, to be taken in respect of such a request.

Article 20

Each Party to this Convention shall in exercising its national sovereignty have the right to withdraw from the Convention if it decides that extraordinary events, related to the subject-matter of this Convention, compel it to do so. It shall give notice of such withdrawal three months in advance to all Parties to the Convention and to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Such notice shall include a statement of the extraordinary events it regards as having compelled it to take such action.

Article 21 38/

1. State Parties undertake to submit every four years to the Secretary-General reports on legislative, administrative and practical measures which they have adopted in implementing the provisions of the present Convention. 39/

37/ See paragraph 90 above.

38/ See also alternative text appearing in square brackets after article 24 below.

39/ One representative proposed the inclusion as a second clause of this paragraph of the following provision: "In cases where relevant information has previously been furnished to the United Nations or to any specialized agency by any State Party to the present Convention, it will not be necessary to reproduce that information but a reference to the information so furnished will suffice."

2. Every four years following this Convention's entry into force, the Commission on the Status of Women shall consider the question of the status of the implementation of the Convention by the States Parties, and submit the report to the Economic and Social Council.

3. Specialized agencies shall be entitled to be represented at the consideration of the said reports.

Article 22

1. The present Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the date of deposit with the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the ... instrument of ratification or accession.

2. For each State ratifying this Convention or acceding to it after the deposit of the ... instrument of ratification or accession, the present Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the date of the deposit of its own instrument of ratification or accession.

Article 23

The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall inform States of the following:

(a) Signatures, ratifications and accessions under article ...

(b) The date of entry into force of the present Convention under article ...

(c) Denunciations in accordance with article ...

Article 24

This Convention, the Russian, Chinese, English, French and Spanish texts of which are equally authentic, shall be deposited in the archives of the United Nations. Duly certified copies of this Convention shall be transmitted to the Governments of the signatory and acceding States.

In witness whereof the undersigned, duly authorized, have signed this Convention.

Alternative text of article 21

First alternative article

1. There shall be established a Committee on the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (hereafter referred to as the Committee) consisting of experts of high moral standing and acknowledged

impartiality elected by States Parties from among their nationals, 40/ preferably members of the Commission on the Status of Women, who shall serve in their personal capacity, consideration being given to equitable geographical distribution and to the representation of the different forms of civilization as well as of the principal legal systems.

2. The members of the Committee shall be elected by secret ballot from a list of persons nominated by the States Parties. Each State Party may nominate one person from among its own nationals. 41/

3. The initial election shall be held six months after the date of the entry into force of this Convention. At least three months before the date of each election the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall address a letter to the States Parties inviting them to submit their nominations within two months. The Secretary-General shall prepare a list in alphabetical order of all persons thus nominated, indicating the States Parties which have nominated them, and shall submit it to the States Parties.

4. Elections of the members of the Committee shall be held at a meeting of States Parties convened by the Secretary-General at United Nations Headquarters. At that meeting, for which two thirds of the States Parties shall constitute a quorum, the persons elected to the Committee shall be those nominees who obtain the largest number of votes and an absolute majority of the votes of the representatives of States Parties and voting.

5. (a) The members of the Committee shall be elected for a term of four years. However, the terms of six of the members elected at the first election shall expire at the end of two years; immediately after the first election the names of these members shall be chosen by lot by the Chairman of the Committee.

(b) For the filling of casual vacancies, the State Party whose expert has ceased to function as a member of the Committee shall appoint another expert from among its nationals, subject to the approval of the Committee. 42/

6. States Parties shall be responsible for the expenses of the members of the Committee while they are in performance of Committee duties.

/Second alternative article/

1. States Parties undertake to submit to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, for consideration by the Committee, a report on the

40/ One representative proposed that the words "nationals, preferably members" should be replaced by "nationals, or those of another State, preferably members".

41/ One representative proposed that either the phrase "from among its own nationals" be deleted, or that the phrase "or those of another State" be added at the end of the original sentence.

42/ One representative proposed that when an expert ceases to function as a member of the Committee, it should not be the State Party but the Committee that should appoint another expert, who would serve until the expiration of the term of the office which has been vacated.

legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures which they have adopted and which give effect to the provisions of this Convention: within one year after the entry into force of the Convention of the State concerned, and thereafter every two years 43/ and whenever the Committee so requests. The Committee may request further information from the States Parties.

(a) Where relevant information has previously been furnished to the United Nations or to any specialized agency by any State Party to this Convention, it will not be necessary to reproduce that information but a precise reference to the information so furnished will suffice.

(b) Specialized agencies shall be entitled to be represented at the consideration of the implementation of such provision of this Convention as fall within the scope of their activities. They shall be entitled to submit reports on the implementation of relevant instruments adopted by them or under their auspices, including particulars of decisions and recommendations on such implementation adopted by their competent organs.

2. Specialized agencies shall be able to receive copies of such parts of the reports by Governments on this Convention as fall within the scope of their activities.

3. The Committee shall report annually, 44/ through the Secretary-General, to the General Assembly of the United Nations on its activities and may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of the reports and information received from the States Parties. Such suggestions and general recommendations shall be reported to the General Assembly together with comments, if any, from States Parties.7

43/ One representative proposed that the States Parties should report every four years after the initial report which would be within a year, thus reducing the financial implications.

44/ One representative suggested the substitution of the phrase "as necessary" for the word "annually".

IV. INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS AND NATIONAL STANDARDS
RELATING TO THE STATUS OF WOMEN 45/

92. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 603rd, 605th, 613th and 626th meetings. It discussed subitems (a), (b) and (c) separately.

A. Implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of
Discrimination against Women and related instruments

93. The Commission considered subitem 5 (a) at its 603rd to 605th and 613th meetings. It had before it a report by the Secretary-General on the subject (E/CN.6/571 and Add.1 and 2) prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1677 (LII) of 31 May 1972.

94. In introducing the report, the representative of the Secretary-General reminded the members of the Commission that by that resolution the Council had established a new consolidated reporting system based on a four-year cycle, with respect to the implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and other international instruments dealing with women's rights. The report, which was the first under the new system, was analytical in nature, as requested. It dealt with the publicity given to the Declaration, general and educational measures, and civil and political rights. It was based on the information supplied by Member States, the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations on the basis of detailed guidelines prepared by the Secretariat. She pointed out that only 34 Governments had submitted information and that relatively few replies dealt with the implementation of the other international instruments mentioned in the guidelines. She indicated that the report contained much interesting information on action taken by non-governmental organizations to improve the position of women.

95. Many members of the Commission explained that if their Governments had not replied it was not because of lack of interest since they considered the elimination of discrimination against women of utmost importance. Among the reasons for not replying were the costs involved in preparing reports for the Secretary-General, especially when the national language was not one of the working languages of the United Nations, and the difficulties encountered in gathering and co-ordinating the relevant information. In this connexion, some representatives emphasized the need to improve the efficiency of communications between the United Nations and Governments. It was suggested that Governments could appoint national correspondents whose functions would be to obtain and co-ordinate the required information relating to women, and who would work in close collaboration with national commissions where they existed. Several representatives announced the intention of their Governments to send their replies during the current session of the Commission or in the near future.

45/ Summary records of the discussion of this item were not provided.

96. Members agreed that it was most important to give the widest publicity to the provisions of the Declaration, although knowledge of its provisions in itself would not eliminate discrimination against women. Many representatives referred to their Government's efforts to publicize the Declaration and to translate it into the national languages and dialects. A more important challenge, however, was to convey the meaning of the principles of the Declaration to the masses of the population.

97. Many representatives described various aspects of the de jure and the de facto situation of women in their countries. Some members expanded on the information submitted by Governments and referred to recent developments that had taken place de jure, as well as de facto. Those developments concerned not only civil and political rights but also economic, social and cultural rights of women which would be the subject of the next report on the implementation of the Declaration to be submitted to the Commission at its twenty-sixth session, in 1976.

98. Several new developments in the de jure situation were mentioned. In some instances reference was made to new provisions of a general nature which were included in the constitutions. In other cases, mention was made of innovations which had been introduced in the law and which improved the legal status of women. For example, concerning the political rights of women, under a recently adopted electoral law in one country, the Government must subsidize part of all candidates' campaigns and a limit had been set to the amount of campaign funds to be spent. That was expected to increase the number of women candidates and to encourage their greater participation in public affairs, since women tended to lack the economic means for political campaigning or access to financing for these purposes. Another development mentioned was that under the new housing legislation enacted in one country, the full salary of either spouse might be made available for the purposes of a mortgage on a house.

99. Concerning the de facto situation, several representatives referred to the perpetuation of traditional sex roles as one of the main obstacles in implementing the principles set forth in the Declaration. It was reported that in some countries concrete measures were being taken to improve the system of education and to give girls and boys alike equal training and possibilities to choose from any curricula, irrespective of sex. In some cases, specific programmes emphasized that all children, irrespective of sex, should be encouraged to become economically independent and better educated so as to be able to choose any kind of occupation.

100. Some members indicated that national commissions or special committees had been created by their respective Governments to find ways to eliminate the obstacles to achieving equality between men and women or to study specific aspects of the problem. In one country, for example, a committee had been established to study whether advertising in the mass communication media discriminated against women. Another committee had been established to study the question of equal pay from a more realistic perspective, comparing, for example, wages of nurses with wages of traditionally male professions requiring the same, or an equivalent educational standard. Other representatives referred to the establishment of government offices to deal with women's affairs or institutes for family affairs or national commissions on the status of women.

101. Some representatives expressed the view that the efforts of new feminist groups

were an important cause of the increased awareness and interest of society as a whole relating to the achievement of equality between men and women. Another development mentioned was the appearance of experts on women's questions and problems. The experts, it was noted, were needed not only at the international level, but also at the national level and various countries were seeking the services of such experts to elaborate specific programmes.

102. It was suggested by several representatives that in order to implement fully the principles of the Declaration, women must have access in much larger numbers to political and decision-making positions at all levels. The great difficulties encountered by women in reaching positions in the higher echelons were mentioned. UNESCO was urged to develop training programmes that would encourage women to engage in political activities in large numbers. It was also emphasized by many members that, in order to achieve the full implementation of all the principles of the Declaration, women must first have equal opportunities in education, unrestricted access to all types of work, and receive equal pay for work of equal value - something that still remained to be achieved in many sectors. Several representatives expressed the opinion that the adoption of a convention on the elimination of discrimination against women would facilitate the implementation of the Declaration.

Consideration of draft resolution and voting

103. A draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.661) on the subject recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council was submitted by the Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Norway and the Philippines. Argentina, Canada, Colombia, France, Greece and Thailand subsequently became co-sponsors.

104. At its 613th meeting the Commission approved the draft resolution by consensus. /For the text, see chapter I, draft resolution IV./

B. Legal capacity of married women: capacity to engage in independent work

105. The Commission considered subitem 5 (b) at its 604th, 605th and 613th meetings. It had before it a progress report by the Secretary-General on the subject (E/CN.6/584).

106. In introducing the report, the representative of the Secretary-General reminded members that at its twenty-first session the Commission had decided to undertake a long-term project on the status of women in private law, and to consider a number of topics within the framework of article 6 of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. The present report, she stated, was prepared in partial response to that decision; the report on the legal capacity of married women, including freedom of movement, domicile and residence would be completed in 1974. Though the present report dealt with one aspect only, it was an important and timely one, namely the broader issue of the legal capacity of married women, which concerned her right to engage in independent work. Two main questions were examined: the capacity of the wife to engage freely in an activity of her choice outside the home without having to obtain her husband's authorization or consent and the right of the wife to administer and dispose of her earnings or the product of her work. At the outset of the report, some general

observations were made relating to two important activities performed by the wife during marriage: her work as caretaker to the needs of the various members of the family and her work as an assistant to her husband in the performance of his own occupation.

107. In the course of the general discussion, many members referred to the situation in their countries with respect to the legal capacity of married women to undertake independent work and to their general legal capacity and status at marriage and during marriage. While in some instances achievement of complete equality in law was reported, in a number of cases specific reference was made to laws or customs which deprived married women of certain important personal and property rights. Mention was made of progress achieved in the past few years in eliminating a number of discriminatory laws, and of legislative reforms which were either under way or contemplated. In that respect the important role that women's organizations had played or could play in helping to bring about such reforms was emphasized, together with activities undertaken at the regional level to achieve a unified legislative approach for countries of the same region. Examples cited were the recommendations of the Seminar on the Status of Arab Women in Personal Statutes, held in Cairo in October 1972 and organized by the League of Arab States (see E/CN.6/578), as well as a study on the economic independence of adult persons both outside and inside marriage which was being prepared by the Nordic Council.

108. Members of the Commission agreed that it was most important that equality of men and women in the field of family law be achieved as soon as possible in the countries where such was not yet the case. It was also stressed that that alone would not be enough to bring about de facto equality and more particularly the full integration of women in the development effort to which the United Nations was committed. They therefore considered that the fundamental issue was that of the roles of men and women in the family and in society, as the report of the Secretary-General had rightly pointed out.

109. Members agreed that the past two decades had witnessed a substantial increase in women engaging in independent work. It was pointed out, however, that the majority of married women, even in some of the most progressive societies, were hampered in doing so, either because they still conceived of themselves as being first of all housewives whose role was to take care of the home, the children and even the husband, or because their husbands held such views. Efforts to achieve full participation of women in the development of their countries on a basis of equality with men would not succeed unless an evolution in the traditional attitudes of men and women towards their roles and responsibilities in the family and in society took place.

110. Referring to measures which would encourage women to exercise their right to work and thus participate more fully as workers and citizens in the life of the community, members stressed the need for large-scale educational and informational programmes to encourage changes in attitudes of both men and women towards their respective roles, provision of adequate child-care facilities, a more equitable sharing of household chores between husband and wife, a revision of laws on taxation, so that the income of the wife would be taxed separately from that of her husband and therefore at a rate lower than that applicable to a joint income. There was agreement on the need and importance of spreading knowledge among women of their rights and responsibilities in general and with respect to marriage in particular. Too many women, it was pointed out, were totally ignorant of those rights and responsibilities and were in no position to avail themselves of them when necessary.

111. With respect to certain activities performed without financial compensation by married women during marriage, it was felt that the services they rendered when they shared in the work of their husbands - a situation which was widespread in rural areas in connexion with farm work - should always be adequately remunerated. In that respect reference was made to discriminatory practices prevailing in some countries whereby the farm wife working with her husband in the development of the farm received no financial compensation or was considered to be only a family helper and not a self-employed entrepreneur. Such a situation was said to be one of the main causes in one country of the migration of families from rural to urban areas, a decision which usually was the wife's. As regards services rendered in connexion with the care and rearing of children at home, the opinion was expressed that such should be viewed as an occupation for which financial compensation in an appropriate manner was due.

Consideration of draft resolution and voting

112. A draft resolution on subitem 5 (b) recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council was submitted by the Dominican Republic, Indonesia, the Philippines, Romania and Thailand (E/CN.6/L.662). Belgium, Finland, Japan, Liberia and Norway were subsequently added as sponsors.

113. The part of the draft resolution which was later to be amended read as follows:

"Taking into account that these situations are not in accordance (or even in conflict) with article 6 of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women,

"1. Recommends that Member States take all the necessary measures to ensure that the legal capacity of the married woman is equal with that of the man, concerning: (a) gainful employment outside the home; (b) her full capacity to administer her property and revenue of her work; (c) the administration of the family's common property; (d) parental authority over their children and their interest; (e) dissolution of marriage and its legal effects;

"2. Recommends further that Member States provide adequate remedies, judicial or otherwise, to both spouses to help them solve their disagreements in respect of questions mentioned above, particular emphasis being put on the necessity of mediation through competent authorities, with the assistance of personnel trained in all aspects of family relations."

114. The sponsors subsequently revised slightly the wording of the draft resolution.

115. The representative of the United Kingdom, referring to the third preambular paragraph, orally proposed the deletion of the words "or even in conflict", which appeared in parentheses. The amendment was accepted by the sponsors.

116. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics orally proposed the insertion, in operative paragraph 1 of the words "where such is not yet the case" after the word "Recommends" and the insertion, in operative paragraph 2, of the words "in such cases", after the words "Recommends further that". The amendments were accepted by the sponsors.

117. The representative of India expressed some reservations as to certain minority laws in her country which were protected by the Constitution.

118. At its 613th meeting the Commission approved by consensus the resolution, as orally modified. [For the text, see chapter I, draft resolution V.]

C. Communications concerning the status of women

119. The Commission considered subitem 5 (c) at its 626th meeting, on 31 January 1974. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 76 (V), as amended by Council resolution 304 I (XI), the Secretary-General prepared two lists summarizing communications received: a non-confidential list of communications dealing with principles relating to the promotion of the status of women in the political, economic, social and educational fields (E/CN.6/CR.24) and a confidential list of other communications concerning the status of women.

120. In introducing the relevant documents the representative of the Secretary-General drew attention to recent modifications concerning human rights communications introduced under Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) and to the fact that the Council resolution had not taken into account the implications of such procedures for the procedure to be followed by the Commission in the consideration of communications concerning the status of women.

121. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics formally proposed that the Commission decide that in future communications related to the status of women shall be considered in accordance with Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII). In her opinion, that resolution had established a single system to deal with all communications on human rights, including women's rights and no other United Nations organ than those mentioned in the resolution had jurisdiction to deal with communications. Therefore communications on the status of women did not belong any longer to the work programme of the Commission on the Status of Women.

122. While a number of representatives shared that view and also expressed concern about unduly overloading the already very heavy work programme of the Commission, other members felt that the Commission should not decide at its current session to delete the question of communications on the status of women from the work programme of the Commission, until it was fully informed on the implications of the new procedure established under Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) as far as communications on the status of women were concerned. They suggested that the Secretary-General should prepare for the consideration of the Commission at its twenty-sixth session a note on the subject and that the Commission should only then, in the light of that note, decide on this matter.

Decision of the Commission

123. Following an exchange of views among the members of the Commission, and at the request of the representative of the USSR, her proposal was put to a vote. At its 626th meeting the Commission adopted the USSR proposal by 11 votes to 5, with 10 abstentions (see paragraph 4).

V. STUDY ON THE INTERRELATIONSHIP OF THE STATUS
OF WOMEN AND FAMILY PLANNING 46/

124. The Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 606th to 608th and 621st meetings. It had before it the Special Rapporteur's report entitled "Study on the interrelationship of the status of women and family planning" (E/CN.6/575 and Add.1-3) prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1326 (XLIV) and Commission resolutions 7 (XXIII) and 6 (XXIV).

125. The Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs introduced the study for which she had been appointed Special Rapporteur by the Council in 1968 (resolution 1326 (XLIV)) while she was a member of the Commission. She drew attention to the definition of the terms "status of women" and "family planning" which had been given in the report. She also underlined the three crucial and closely interrelated parts of the study which dealt with the question of population from both its human rights and national development aspects. The three main sections of the study focused on: (a) the importance of family planning for women as individuals and its impact on their roles in society; (b) the status of women as a factor influencing family size and the birth rate; (c) the implications of current population growth for women and national development. The part of the study dealing with the nature and scope of family planning and related programmes and women's roles with respect to such programmes was not yet available but would be issued in due course. The Assistant Secretary-General drew particular attention to the summary of the study (see E/CN.6/575, sect. E) and to the general observations and conclusions (ibid., sect. F).

126. Representatives expressed their sincere appreciation to the Assistant Secretary-General, who in her capacity as Special Rapporteur had contributed so much to the study on the status of women and family planning, and to all who had worked on it with her. They underlined the usefulness of the definition given of the terms "status of women" and "family planning", as well as the summary and conclusions of the report which provided valuable insights into the interrelationship between the status of women and family planning. While it was true that a woman's status was high or low depending on the extent to which she had control over her own life, in practice it was the extent to which she had access to knowledge, economic resources and political power that determined her real "status". Similarly, the status of a society could be assessed according to the choices it offered its citizens in the areas of education, employment, political life and family life. Thus, the status of the citizen in any society was linked to the status and quality of the society itself. Similarly, the definition of the concept of "family planning" given in the report was important. "Family planning" had too often been taken to mean only birth control. The study made it clear, however, that the concept of family planning encompassed the right of all persons to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children, taking into account the right of every child to be a wanted child.

46/ Summary records of the discussion of this item were provided.

127. It was considered essential that during the debates of the World Population Conference, to be held in Bucharest in August 1974, increased emphasis should be given to problems concerning the role of women in contemporary society; also that Governments should be requested to ensure adequate participation of women in their delegations to the Conference.

128. Several representatives recommended that the study on the status of women and family planning should be published in a shorter, popular version for the World Population Year, 1974, and the International Women's Year, 1975, and given wide publicity.

129. It was also recommended that the study itself which contained very useful data and information should be a background document for the World Population Conference and the International Forum on the Role of Women in Population and Development to be held in February 1974. Some representatives noted that they had been unable to examine the study closely in view of the late distribution of the report in Russian and therefore abstained from supporting this recommendation.

130. Some representatives expressed some reservations with respect to paragraph 31 of the study (E/CN.6/575) in so far as it recognized the right to decide freely and responsibly on the number of children and the right to adequate information, education and services as fundamental human rights which should be guaranteed to all persons regardless of particular national or international demographic conditions and goals. They expressed the view that the exercise of human rights must take into account national conditions or goals.

131. A wider circulation of the report as well as the publication of a more popular version of it was recommended. It was felt that the World Population Plan of Action should take into account the findings of the study and the interrelationship of population questions, the status of women and over-all development.

132. Many representatives spoke of the vital role which family planning could play in enabling women to contribute to the life of the community and improve their status in it, as well as in facilitating the enjoyment by them of their other rights. Conversely, improvements in the status of women were important if family planning programmes were to be successful.

133. Education was considered to be a key factor in raising the status of women and in improving the quality of life. Several representatives spoke also of the importance of sex education and felt it should be included in the school curricula. Other representatives stressed that education in population questions in general rather than sex education should be taught in the schools and in and out-of-school educational programmes. Some representatives said that good teachers for sex education as well as for population education were essential since it was important that young people should be taught the basic facts of reproduction and the techniques of family planning.

134. Some representatives noted that the concept of family planning should be regarded in the context of economic and social development in the countries concerned and that States had a sovereign right to formulate and to promote their own population policies which should not be subject to outside intervention. It was noted that this policy had been applied by Governments on the basis of conditions prevailing in each country. It was also said that demographic factors would not

have a decisive influence on socio-economic development but that only radical reforms would bring a general improvement in economic conditions and in achieving real progress in development.

135. Many representatives considered that the integration of family planning programmes as an integral part of national, social and economic development programmes was essential. Some representatives urged that family planning should not only be integrated in health and welfare programmes but should be given a high priority within those programmes.

136. Other representatives underlined the need for more funds to be expended on economic and social development and the development of better employment opportunities for women.

137. One representative stated that, in line with the findings of the study, in her country the budget for family planning had been reduced in favour of additional funds for development projects.

138. Some representatives felt that radical changes in the status of women did not hinge on family planning but on the mobilization of millions of women in the cause of national and social development. It was said that the aims of a demographic policy should be limited to producing an optimum rate of population replacement by systematic action to stimulate or limit the birth rate depending on the specific socio-economic conditions of a given country. It was hardly appropriate for the United Nations to make recommendations on such matters.

139. On the other hand, the view was put forward that the success or failure of development depended in some countries on whether the population problem could be solved. Representatives stressed the unquestioned right of each State to formulate its population policy. At the same time it was felt by some representatives that a more positive and comprehensive policy should be adopted by some States which if including such factors as the intensification of rural development, employment opportunities would provide more options for women. Population policies should also be implemented by better balanced budgets as well as by changes in legislation, such as the adoption of appropriate marriage and inheritance laws and other regulations which would support those population policies.

Consideration of draft resolution and voting

140. A draft resolution relating to the study on the interrelationship of the status of women and family planning was submitted by the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Finland and the United States of America (E/CN.6/L.668). It contained a draft resolution recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council. This draft resolution was subsequently revised to incorporate a number of amendments. The revised draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.668/Rev.1) was introduced by the Dominican Republic.

141. During the consideration of the revised draft resolution a number of oral amendments were proposed. Finland suggested that in operative paragraph 3, subparagraph (a), the words "adequate education in maternity and child-health services" be modified to read "adequate maternity, child-health and child-care services, education". India suggested an amendment to subparagraph (b), by which, after the word "include" the words "and utilize fully" were inserted. The

Philippines suggested an amendment to subparagraph (c), by which the phrase "out of school educational activities, including literacy programmes" was replaced by the phrase "for youth attending school, as well as for those who do not". Belgium suggested an amendment to operative paragraph 6, after the words "support and promote", by which the words "as much as possible" were inserted. India expressed reservation with respect to operative paragraph 5: it did not consider it opportune to request Governments to provide equal representation, since some might want more women and some fewer to participate in the Conference. It wished to have its position recorded in the report.

142. At its 621st meeting the Commission approved the revised draft resolution, as orally amended, by 20 votes to none, with 8 abstentions. [For the text, see chapter I, draft resolution VI.]

Decision of the Commission

143. At the same meeting, the Commission also decided to request the Secretary-General to bring the revised draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.668/Rev.1), as amended, to the attention of the Population Commission at its forthcoming session, together with the report of the Special Rapporteur and the summary records of the discussion of the item in the Commission on the Status of Women, so that they would be taken into consideration in the drafting of the World Population Plan of Action (see paragraph 5).

VI. PROGRAMME OF CONCERTED INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO PROMOTE
THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN AND THEIR INTEGRATION IN
DEVELOPMENT 47/

144. The Commission considered item 7 of its agenda at its 609th to 612th, 616th to 619th, 621st and 627th meetings. It discussed subitems (a) and (b) together, subitems (c) and (d) together, and subitem (e) separately.

A. Implementation of a programme of concerted international action; status of rural women, especially agricultural workers

145. The Commission considered subitems (a) and (b) at its 609th to 612th, 616th to 619th, 621st and 627th meetings. Under subitem (a) ("Implementation of a programme of concerted international action"), the Commission had before it: a report of the Secretary-General on the subject (E/CN.6/577), the Report of the Interregional Meeting of Experts on the Integration of Women in Development 48/ and its summary (E/CN.5/481), as well as a report entitled Participation of Women in Community Development. 49/

146. Under subitem (b) ("Status of rural women, especially agricultural workers") the Commission had before it a progress report prepared by the Secretary-General on the subject (E/CN.6/583) and the reports of the International Labour Office (E/CN.6/583/Add.1) and FAO (E/CN.6/583/Add.2), prepared in accordance with Commission resolution 14 (XXIV).

147. In introducing the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/577), the representative of the Secretary-General said that the report examined the objectives and minimum targets of the Second United Nations Development Decade with special reference to those relating to the promotion of the equality of women and to their full integration in the development effort envisaged in General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV) and 2716 (XXV). She also drew the Commission's attention to the need to consider its own role in the review and appraisal process relating to the status and condition of women, particularly as the following year, 1975, would be devoted to the mid-term review of progress achieved during the first half of the Decade. The report also described the methodology currently being used by the United Nations system of organizations to measure and appraise progress and indicated the need for the systematic collection of more extensive statistics and data on women and for development indicators on the social situation and status of women.

148. Referring to the Interregional Meeting of Experts on the Integration of Women in Development, held in June 1972, in New York, the representative of the Secretary-

47/ Summary records of the discussion of this item were provided.

48/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.IV.12.

49/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.72.IV.8.

General observed that the Meeting marked the first occasion on which experts on development and those on the status of women had come together to discuss common strategies to achieve effective integration. She also highlighted other new and expanded activities of the United Nations system in relation to women in development, including a number of very useful seminars which had been held on the relationship of the status of women and family planning as a contribution to the preparation for the World Population Year, 1974, and also to the implementation of the long-term programme of concerted action. Moreover, a project on the integration of women in development with special reference to population factors was currently being carried out.

149. A number of representatives thought that it was most timely to examine the Commission's role in the review and appraisal process to be undertaken at intervals throughout the Decade and particularly in preparing for the mid-term review. In addition, several representatives pointed out the need to assess progress achieved in promoting the equality and advancement of women, throughout the entire United Nations system. In the opinion of some members that might involve a revision of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade (General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV)) in order to define more clearly approaches to the effective integration of women in development. Other representatives felt that it was important to draw the attention of the Committee for Development Planning and the Committee on Review and Appraisal which were directly concerned with review and appraisal, to the need to include the question of the social and economic status of women and their equality with men, in the mid-term and subsequent reviews.

150. Many representatives agreed that there was a need for more statistical and informational data on the problems facing women in countries at all levels and stages of development. In that connexion several members of the Commission felt that it would be very useful if methodologies could be worked out for the development of social data or indicators on the role of women in the economic, social and cultural aspects of the development process.

151. It was pointed out that several obstacles still existed to the integration of women in the development process and to their achievement of an improved quality of life. That observation was found to be particularly applicable to women in rural areas. In discussing the obstacles to the full participation of women in social, economic and political life of rural areas, many representatives cited the incidence of unemployment, underemployment, low wages, illiteracy, inadequate educational and training facilities, particularly with regard to modern agricultural techniques and vocational training, the sheer drudgery of agricultural work, lack of transportation for women as well as schoolchildren, and inadequate social and health services, including maternal and child care and family planning.

152. Some representatives stated that in many developing countries the plight of women agricultural workers was deplorable. Others, however, pointed out that their situation was also far from acceptable in many developed countries, where the agricultural sector was in a stage of transition. In some instances, it had even produced a situation where there were fewer jobs, though the number of skilled jobs had increased, thereby increasing the rate of unemployment and migration to the towns.

153. In that connexion, the view was expressed that the situation of women working in

rural industries should not be overlooked. It was suggested that those women should be encouraged to participate in the choice and siting of industries in rural areas, as such decisions could affect not only the human and social environment but also the future well-being of their families and community. Several representatives welcomed the proposals of the Interregional Meeting of Experts with respect to the role of women in rural societies, in small-scale businesses, in modern industries and the employment of women with family responsibilities.

154. Some representatives thought that the "brain drain" from rural to urban areas was a serious problem and that every effort should be made by national development planners to create more employment, better educational and leisure facilities and community and cultural services in rural areas so as to encourage people to remain there. A few representatives suggested that salary and other incentives could be introduced to make such areas more attractive.

155. The Commission thought that every effort should be made to give women and girls greater access to education and that the level of their access affected the level of development of the society.

156. Several representatives also stressed the need to rethink the type and quality of education and training in the rural areas. In addition to agricultural and home economics skills, women and girls should be taught leadership skills, manufacturing, production and marketing techniques, and how to run co-operatives, small businesses and self-help schemes profitably. In such a way, women could generate their own employment and be in a better position to bring about social changes within their societies.

157. Some members of the Commission welcomed the Secretary-General's progress report (E/CN.6/583) and thought that the list of items for further study which it contained was a comprehensive one.

158. The representative of UNESCO introduced the revised study on the equality of access of girls and women to education in the context of rural development (E/CN.6/566/Rev.1). The study discussed certain basic problems facing women in rural areas, such as illiteracy, school drop-out, the inadequacy of educational and teaching facilities and the trend to migrate to the urban areas. In that regard the report confirmed the discrepancy between the level of and opportunities for education in urban areas, on the one hand, and rural areas, on the other, and emphasized the obstacles to women's complete integration in development brought about by their inadequate education and training.

159. The representative of the International Labour Office, in introducing the report of the ILO (E/CN.6/583/Add.1), observed that balanced development could not be achieved unless the status of both women and men in the rural areas was improved. One of the major obstacles to the advancement of rural women was that their activities were confined to home economics. The ILO report stressed the need to involve women in wider economic and social activities by equipping them with the necessary know-how and technical assistance.

160. The representative of FAO pointed out that the FAO report (E/CN.6/583/Add.2) attempted to present a profile of the rural woman in a variety of situations. Its major contribution was to provide a conceptual framework which could be developed and tested on the national level, in order to determine the extent of women's participation in social and economic activities and to plan further action programmes.

161. The representative of WHO emphasized the need to examine the health situation of women and other vulnerable groups in rural areas and said that necessary research was being carried out by his organization.

162. The representative of ECA agreed with other speakers that training in home economics should not be carried out in isolation but should be provided along with training in modern agricultural and marketing techniques. She informed the Commission that in each member country of the region, workshops had been held which aimed at training community development workers in labour-saving techniques and income-generating activities.

163. The representative of UNICEF outlined some of the programmes currently being undertaken by the Fund to improve, in particular, the health and welfare of the mother and the child in rural areas.

Consideration of draft resolution and voting

164. At the 616th meeting, the representative of Egypt on behalf also of France and Liberia introduced a draft resolution on the implementation of a programme of concerted international action to promote the advancement of women and their integration in development (E/CN.6/L.665). Colombia, Indonesia, Japan and Romania joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which contained a draft recommended to the Economic and Social Council for adoption.

165. The representative of the United States of America submitted amendments (E/CN.6/L.669) which were subsequently withdrawn in favour of a revised text introduced by Egypt on behalf of all previous sponsors as well as the Dominican Republic and the United States (E/CN.6/L.665/Rev.1). The revised draft resolution combined the main features of the initial draft resolution and of the United States amendments. Operative paragraph 8 of the revised draft resolution, which was later to be amended, read as follows:

"8. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-sixth session on the allocation of funds and personnel by the United Nations system of organizations for development programmes for women, aimed at achieving the goals and objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade and of General Assembly resolution 2716 (XXV), this report to include a clear statement as to percentage of the total budget spent on these programmes for women for the current biennium and the proposed increase for the following biennium;"

166. The representative of the United States, on behalf of the sponsors, accepted an amendment proposed by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to replace, in operative paragraph 8, the words "by the United Nations system of organizations for development programmes for women," by "within existing development programmes for women by the United Nations system of organizations".

167. At its 621st meeting the Commission approved by consensus the revised draft resolution as amended. /For the text, see chapter I, draft resolution VII./

168. At the 617th meeting the representative of the Philippines on behalf also of Costa Rica, Indonesia, and Thailand submitted a draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.664)

on the status of rural women, especially agricultural workers, which recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"Considering that article 9 of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women provides, inter alia, for all appropriate measures to be taken to ensure that girls and women, married or unmarried, have equal rights with men in education at all levels, and in particular for equal opportunities for access to programmes of continuing education including adult literacy programmes, access to educational information to be held in ensuring the health and well-being of families,

"Noting that:

"(a) There is a need for women in rural areas to participate more effectively in national development programmes and that such participation merits recognition by status or wages,

"(b) On account of the limited opportunities for gainful work in the rural areas, women migrate to urban areas and enter service occupations where the majority of them are exploited,

"(c) There is a need for women to be trained to use fully the resources and raw materials in the rural areas for total national development,

"Taking into account that these situations are not in accordance with article 9 of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women,

"Recommends that Member States take all necessary steps to start or intensify a programme for mass continuing education for both men and women through television, radio and all other means of mass media or means of communication, and that programmes should include information on family life and citizenship education, cottage and home industries, farming, rural development and co-operatives, and family planning."

169. Colombia, the Dominican Republic, India and the United States of America also joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

170. Following the exchange of views among members of the Commission as well as suggestions made by the representatives of Greece, Egypt, India, Japan and Romania the sponsors of the draft resolutions slightly revised the original of the text.

171. In the first preambular paragraph the expression "continuing education" was replaced by "life-long education".

172. In the second preambular paragraph, subparagraph (b) was revised to read as follows:

"(b) In many countries, on account of the limited opportunities for gainful work in the rural areas, women migrate to urban areas and enter service occupations where many of them may be exploited."

173. The operative paragraph was revised to read as follows:

"Recommends that Member States take all necessary steps to start or intensify a programme for mass life-long education for both men and women through television, radio and all other means of mass media or means of communication, and that programmes should include information and education on family life, including family planning and citizenship as well as vocational training in economic activities including cottage and home industries, farming, rural development and co-operatives."

174. At its 618th meeting the Commission approved by consensus the draft resolution, as orally amended. /For the text, see chapter I, draft resolution VIII./

175. At the 619th meeting the representative of the Dominican Republic, on behalf also of Norway, introduced a draft resolution on the employment of women by the secretariats of organizations in the United Nations system (E/CN.6/L.670). The draft resolution contained a text recommended to the General Assembly for adoption - through the Economic and Social Council - reading as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 2716 (XXV) on the programme of concerted international action for the advancement of women and the objectives and minimum targets to be achieved during the Second United Nations Development Decade set forth in the annex to that resolution, particularly those concerned with the increase in the number of women participating in public life at the international level,

"Noting with appreciation that the reports of the Secretary-General on the composition of the Secretariat submitted to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth and twenty-eighth sessions included some information on the employment of women in senior and other professional positions in the secretariats of organizations in the United Nations system, 50/

"Noting also that the report of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, entitled The Situation of Women in the United Nations, 51/ confirms the imbalance in the proportion of women at the higher levels and gives statistics showing the unequal progress of women and men staff members in terms of promotion in the United Nations Secretariat,

"Concerned that these reports reveal an unsatisfactory situation which calls for specific measures and programmes in order to achieve an equitable balance between the number of men and women, particularly in senior and policy-making positions,

"1. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations as well as the executive heads of all organizations of the United Nations system to take all necessary measures in order to ensure that an adequate balance between men and women staff members, particularly in the positions described above, be achieved before the end of the Second United Nations Development Decade;

50/ Documents A/8483 and A/9120 and Corr.1 and 2.

51/ UNITAR Research Report No. 18, 1973.

"2. Urges the Secretary-General of the United Nations as well as the executive heads of all organizations of the United Nations system, in order to attain this objective, to adopt a more flexible approach in the recruitment of women and to give greater attention to the assignments given to and promotion of qualified women;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations as well as the executive heads of all organizations of the United Nations system to establish an advisory committee within their respective secretariats to assist in the formulation of measures and policies aimed at achieving the objective mentioned in the paragraphs above and in their implementation;

"4. Requests further the Secretary-General of the United Nations as well as the executive heads of all organizations of the United Nations system to report to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session, in 1975, on steps that have been taken to give effect to paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 above;

"5. Requests also the Secretary-General to continue to include in his reports on the composition of the Secretariat submitted to the General Assembly comprehensive data on the employment of women in the secretariats of the United Nations system of organizations so as to indicate clearly the nature of posts and types of duties performed by women in professional and policy-making levels."

176. The following countries joined as co-sponsors of the draft resolution: Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Nigeria and the Philippines.

177. On behalf of the sponsors, the representative of the Dominican Republic introduced a revision to the first preambular paragraph calling for the insertion after the word "Recalling" of the words "Article 8 of the United Nations Charter as well as".

178. Following an exchange of views among members of the Commission and oral amendments made by India, the Philippines, Indonesia, Costa Rica and the USSR, the sponsors further revised the text.

179. An additional preambular paragraph was inserted between the first and second, reading as follows:

"Noting with appreciation that where women have been appointed in positions of responsibility in the United Nations system of organizations it has definitely proved to have positive effects on a more effective implementation of the aims and programmes of the United Nations especially those relevant to the status of women."

180. At the end of the last preambular paragraph the following words were added: "including those of Under-Secretary-General and Assistant Secretary-General".

181. In operative paragraph 1, after the words "in order to ensure", a comma and the following words were inserted: "in strict accordance with equitable geographical distribution.". The word "adequate" was replaced by "equitable" and the following phrase was inserted at the end of the paragraph: "at all levels in the United Nations system, international, regional and national".

182. In operative paragraph 2 the words "and positive" were inserted after "flexible".

183. In operative paragraph 3 the words "without any financial implications," were inserted after "respective secretariats,".

184. At the end of operative paragraph 5 the following phrase was added: "bearing in mind the principle of equitable geographical distribution within the United Nations system".

185. A new paragraph - operative paragraph 6 - was added; it read as follows:

"Further requests that the Secretary-General report on the status of women employees in the secretariats at the General Service level."

186. At its 621st meeting the Commission approved by consensus the draft resolution, as amended. [For the text, see chapter I, draft resolution IX.]

B. Technical co-operation activities for the advancement of women and activities of the specialized agencies to promote the advancement of women

187. Agenda item 7, subitems (c) and (d), were discussed together at the 611th, 612th and 616th to 619th meetings of the Commission.

188. Under subitem (c) the Commission had before it a report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/569) on the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 926 (X), the report of the Interregional Seminar on the Family in a Changing Society: Problems and Responsibilities of its Members, held in London in July 1973 (ESA/SDHA/AC.3/12) and the reports of three seminars on the status of women and family planning held, respectively, in Istanbul (Turkey) in July 1972 (ST/TAO/HR/46), in Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic) in May 1973 (ESA/SDHA/AC.1/26) and in Jogjakarta (Indonesia) in June 1973 (ESA/SDHA/AC.2/21).

189. Under subitem (d) the Commission had before it reports by the ILO (E/CN.6/579) and UNESCO (E/CN.6/580) on their activities of particular interest to women.

190. In introducing the relevant documents regarding technical co-operation activities for the advancement of women, the representative of the Secretary-General informed the members of the Commission that, as a result of the transfer of the Section on the Status of Women, now called the Promotion of Equality of Men and Women Branch, from the Division of Human Rights to the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, there existed now a more rigid division between the Branch and the Division of funds available under the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights. On the other hand, the Branch was now able through the Centre, to draw on other United Nations programmes of technical co-operation. She reminded members of the Commission of Economic and Social Council resolution 1680 (LII) which invited the Secretary-General, in discharging his responsibilities for the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, to ensure so far as possible that two seminars on subjects relating to the status of women were held each year, one of them to be an

international seminar on a matter directly related to the work programme of the Commission, and that increased attention was given to awarding human rights fellowships to more women and persons involved in activities designed to eliminate discrimination against women. Under the same resolution, Governments were invited to avail themselves more fully of the services of experts under the programme. Referring to activities undertaken under the programme in 1972 and 1973, she mentioned the seminars in Istanbul and London (see paragraph 188 above). She noted that in 1972, 20 out of 56 human rights fellowships had been awarded to women, and in 1973, 7 out of 19. As regards plans for 1974, she indicated that a seminar would be held in Canada, which might be combined with a training course, on national commissions on the status of women or similar bodies. As regards technical co-operation activities under other programmes, she referred to the two regional seminars on the status of women and family planning held in 1973, both funded by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) (see paragraph 188 above, as well as the discussion under item 6 of the agenda), and to regional meetings planned for 1974 and 1975, in co-operation with ECAFE and ECA to be held in the regions. They would focus on the integration of women in development.

191. In introducing the report on activities of interest to women (E/CN.6/579), the representative of the ILO informed the members of the Commission that, since it had been completed, the Governing Body, in November 1973, had decided to place on the agenda of the 1975 session of the International Labour Conference the question of equality of opportunity and treatment for women workers. A meeting of the ILO tripartite consultant group on women workers would be held in May 1974 to consider a preliminary report on the question and a meeting with interested non-governmental organizations would be held at about the same time for the same purpose. The consideration of the report together with the conclusions and recommendations of the Conference would constitute the main contribution of the ILO to the International Women's Year. She also highlighted the main achievements of the ILO during the period under review and some of the most important activities contemplated for 1974 and 1975. She stressed that the report reflected the steadily rising interest in the problems facing women in the world of work, and she expressed the hope that technical co-operation activities for women workers would expand because women had been neglected in the past in such programmes. She informed the members of the Commission that the standards of the ILO relating to the employment of women were kept under review so that they might be revised, as appropriate, in order to reflect modern conditions of life and scientific and technological developments. In that connexion the revision of standards relating to night work for women was mentioned, together with the improvement of working conditions of men and women nurses. She also pointed out that the question of part-time work should be adequately regulated at the national level in view of the number of women and men engaged in it. Trade unions, she added, maintained their reservations as regards part-time work, which did not lead to career development and usually occasioned exploitation. The real answer, she said, was in shorter working hours for all.

192. In introducing the study on UNESCO activities of special interest to women (E/CN.6/580) the representative of UNESCO commented that it did not by any means give a picture of all the activities for women undertaken by UNESCO during the period under consideration. Indeed, every UNESCO activity concerned both men and women. Referring to the session of the General Conference held in November 1972, she pointed out that the increased participation of women - 10 per cent of the attendance - had made its influence felt, particularly regarding the question of

equal educational opportunity for women. It had led to the adoption by the General Conference of its resolution 1.142 (c) which inter alia authorized the Director-General to promote new approaches to the achievement of equal access of girls and women to, and equal opportunity at, all levels of education, training and employment in all phases of life, and taking due account of their role in family and society, in order to enable them to participate fully and creatively in the economic and social development of their countries. The programme for the equality of educational opportunity for girls and women would be evaluated by a committee of experts in 1975. The evaluation would no doubt take into account the wishes of the 1972 session of the General Conference and the trends in the programme which met with its approval. Such trends were the integrated approach to the advancement of women within the United Nations system calling for an increased co-operation with other agencies, and greater involvement of member States in UNESCO's activities for the advancement of women. The concentration on priority areas in women's education in developing countries did not exclude the future involvement with obstacles against equality of educational opportunity in industrialized societies.

193. The representative of FAO informed the members of the Commission of the various activities of the organization to promote the status of women. Those activities included the education and training of women in the context of an integrated approach to rural development. Great importance was attached by the FAO to the question of agrarian reform and, in order to cope with changing conditions in rural areas, special programmes for women had been established dealing with production, management, co-operatives and marketing. Their organization was making special efforts to elaborate a population strategy combined with measures to promote a more equitable distribution of income from increased food production. She added that FAO intended to co-operate more actively in the United Nations programme relating to the advancement of women.

194. The members of the Commission expressed great satisfaction at the expansion of the various programmes and operational activities for women undertaken at the international level and at the growing interest shown by Governments in the promotion of women. They expressed the hope that such interest would gather further strength, particularly in connexion with the International Women's Year. They agreed that it was most important to co-ordinate, as closely as possible, the activities at the international level in order to avoid duplication and scattered effort. While it was recognized that there existed priority areas where assistance was urgently needed, operational activities concerned with the long-term objectives of the promotion of equality of men and women both de jure and de facto and the full integration of women in the development of their countries at all levels were also considered very important.

195. Referring to specific types of assistance, some representatives stressed the need of services of experts in various fields. They felt that more attention should be paid to the needs of women working in handicrafts. In order to improve the quality of their product, training and technical assistance should be given to them to improve their skills and techniques. It was suggested that knowledge of marketing and the establishment of co-operatives would help them sell their product, and raise their standard of living. Reference was also made to the lack of nurses in certain countries and the difficulties in recruiting them, and the problems faced by women who received a low remuneration when comparative work for men was non-existent. Great interest was expressed in plans for pre-school and pre-primary

education. It was suggested that UNESCO enlarge its programmes in such fields and put increased emphasis on teacher training to meet the needs of rural areas which were suffering from lack of personnel. Also, more training for girls was needed for running kindergarten schools, child-care and day-care centres and nurseries.

196. Members of the Commission agreed that a revision of the norms relating to the work of women was necessary in order that they be more attuned to the current circumstances of contemporary life and that they should enable women to discharge their responsibilities in respect of their work and their families. They welcomed the efforts undertaken by the ILO in that respect. The opinion was expressed, however, that a revision of the ILO standards, although necessary, might not be enough and that the ILO should envisage, in addition, the elaboration of conventions, including a convention on the employment of women with family responsibilities, and devote more attention to setting standards in respect of work at home and part-time work.

Consideration of draft resolution and voting

197. At its 616th meeting the representative of India introduced a draft resolution on technical co-operation activities for the advancement of women (E/CN.6/L.663).

198. The representative of Japan proposed an oral amendment to modify operative paragraph 1 by changing the phrase "to seek ways and means" to read "to seek new ways and means". The suggestion was accepted by the sponsor.

199. Indonesia joined as co-sponsor of the draft resolution.

200. At the same meeting the Commission approved by consensus the draft resolution, as amended. [For the text, see chapter I, draft resolution X.]

201. At the 617th meeting, the representative of Hungary, on behalf of the sponsors which also included Egypt, Greece, Guinea, Romania and Zaire, introduced a draft resolution concerning the activities of the ILO to promote the advancement of women (E/CN.6/L.666). Argentina, Colombia and the Philippines subsequently joined in sponsoring the draft resolution. It contained a draft, the adoption of which was recommended to the Economic and Social Council. The operative part read as follows:

"1. Invites the International Labour Organisation to contribute to the International Women's Year by continuing to expand and strengthen its standard-setting activities in fields of special interest to women;

"2. Requests the International Labour Organisation to expand its efforts in this field and to accord particular attention to girls and women in the revision of instruments on vocational guidance and training;

"3. Draws the attention of the International Labour Organisation to the need for an eventual revision of certain conventions, including the Convention concerning Maternity Protection, in accordance with the requirements of contemporary life, and to the need to transform certain recommendations into conventions, including the recommendation on the employment of women with family obligations;

"4. Recommends that in its future work, the International Labour Organisation should devote attention to new problems of concern to women, including the impact of technological and scientific developments on the employment of women and problems relating to work at home and part-time work."

202. The representative of Norway orally proposed an amendment to operative paragraph 3 so that it would read as follows after the word "need": "to revise its standards relating to the employment of women in the light of the changing roles of men and women in economic life and in the family"; she also proposed the deletion of operative paragraph 4.

203. Following an exchange of views among the members of the Commission and various suggestions, the sponsors of the draft resolution orally revised operative paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of the draft resolution to read as follows:

"2. Requests the International Labour Organisation to expand its efforts in this field and to accord particular attention to girls and women in the revision of instruments on vocational guidance and training and in its work under the World Employment Programme;

"3. Draws the attention of the International Labour Organisation to the need to study the possibility of revising certain conventions, for example the Convention concerning Maternity Protection, with full regard to the differing conditions in different countries and to the need to transform certain recommendations into conventions, for example, the recommendation of the employment of women with family obligations, in order to prevent discrimination against women;

"4. Recommends that in its future work the International Labour Organisation should devote attention to new problems of concern to women workers, including the impact of technological and scientific developments on the employment of women and problems relating to part-time work in the light of the changing roles of men and women in economic life and in the family."

204. At the request of the representative of Norway, her oral amendment to operative paragraph 3 was put to a vote. It was rejected by 14 votes to 6, with 3 abstentions. Her proposal to delete operative paragraph 4 was also put to a vote. It was rejected by 16 votes to 3, with 6 abstentions.

205. At the request of the same representative, operative paragraphs 3 and 4 were voted on separately. Both paragraphs were adopted by 21 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

206. At its 618th meeting the Commission approved the draft resolution as a whole, as orally amended, by 23 votes to none with 2 abstentions. For the text, see chapter I, draft resolution XI.

207. At the 619th meeting, the representative of France, on behalf also of Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Greece, Kenya, Nigeria and Zaire, introduced draft resolution E/CN.6/L.671, which contained a draft recommended to the Economic and Social Council for adoption; operative paragraph 1, subparagraph (a), and operative paragraph 2, which were later to be amended, read as follows:

...

"(a) To develop pilot projects in the developing countries, in a manner appropriate to the needs of those countries with regard to literacy and primary, technical and vocational education;

...

"2. Expresses the wish that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, bearing in mind the goals of the International Education Year, devote as large a share as possible of its budget resources to the co-ordinated efforts of its various departments to ensure the utilization and advancement of women within the organization for the benefit of the women staff of its own secretariat and in all bodies where it exercises competence."

208. The following countries joined in sponsoring the draft resolution: Guinea, India, Indonesia, Japan, Liberia, the Philippines and the United States of America.

209. Following an exchange of views among the members of the Commission and suggestions made by the representatives of India, Thailand and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics regarding operative paragraphs 1, subparagraph (a) and 2, the sponsors revised the text of those paragraphs to read as follows:

...

"(a) To develop pilot projects in the developing countries, in a manner appropriate to the needs of those countries with regard to pre-school, literacy, primary, technical and vocational education and teacher training;

...

"2. Expresses the wish, bearing in mind the goals of the International Women's Year, that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in the allocation of its budgetary resources, devote as large a share as possible thereof to the co-ordinated efforts of its various departments to ensure the utilization and advancement of women within the organization for the benefit of women staff of its own secretariat and in all bodies where it exercises competence."

210. At its 619th meeting, the Commission approved by consensus the draft resolution, as amended. For the text, see chapter I, draft resolution XII.

C. Co-operation with intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system

211. The Commission considered subitem 7 (e) at its 617th meeting. In pursuance of paragraph 7 of resolution 48 B (IV) of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission had before it a report of the Inter-American Commission of Women (E/CN.6/572) and a report of the League of Arab States on the activities of the Committee on the Status of Arab Women (E/CN.6/578). By paragraph 7 of its resolution 48 B (IV) the Council requested the Secretary-General "to make arrangements for the presence of observers from regional intergovernmental organizations in the field of women's rights at sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women to act in an advisory and informative capacity, and to arrange for the exchange of information between the Commission and these organizations on subjects relating to the status of women".

212. In introducing the report on the activities of the Inter-American Commission of Women the representative of that organization drew the attention of the members of the Commission to the various parts of the report and described the most important features of the Commission's plans for the observance of the International Women's Year, which was to be approved by the next Assembly of the Commission, in September 1974. She stressed the importance attached by the organization to co-operating and intensifying its collaboration with the Commission on the Status of Women.

213. Representatives agreed that the Inter-American Commission of Women had played and continued to play a very important role in promoting the status of women, particularly through a variety of training programmes. They expressed the hope that other regional commissions will establish commissions similar to the Inter-American Commission of Women.

214. In introducing the report on the activities of the Committee on the Status of Arab Women, the representative of that Committee described the history of its establishment. She mentioned the main recommendations already made by it, particularly in the field of family law, and described some of the programmes that had been initiated. She explained that the Committee was created because of the need for a major women's organization which would focus attention on women's special problems in the region and would assist them in the process of their integration in economic and social life. The Committee, she said, would act as a co-ordinator between Governments of the region and non-governmental women's associations.

215. Representatives expressed their great satisfaction at the recent establishment of the Committee on the Status of Arab Women and at the dynamism already shown by it. They encouraged it to participate in the common effort towards the promotion of equality of men and women and the integration of women in development. The hope was expressed that the Committee would envisage a formal or informal co-ordination with African women and that an African Women's Commission would soon be established.

VII. PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN EMERGENCY AND ARMED
CONFLICT IN THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE, SELF-DETERMINATION,
NATIONAL LIBERATION AND INDEPENDENCE 52/

216. The Commission considered item 8 of its agenda at its 619th, 620th, 622nd and 623rd meetings. It had before it a report by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/586) prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1687 (LII). In introducing the report, the representative of the Secretary-General explained that the report was based on information requested by the Secretary-General in accordance with the Council resolution and furnished by Governments, United Nations organs and bodies, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations, as well as on the relevant reports of the United Nations organs. She informed the Commission that under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) two draft additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, dealing with the protection of victims of international armed conflicts and of non-international armed conflicts, respectively, had been prepared and would be submitted to the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law which was to be held in Geneva from 20 February to 29 March 1974.

217. Many representatives underlined the necessity to develop and strengthen the norms of international humanitarian law in order to protect women and children in emergency and armed conflicts. They greeted the efforts of ICRC in this connexion, with respect to the preparation of the two draft additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, and urged the forthcoming Diplomatic Conference to secure maximum protection of women and children in international and in non-international conflicts in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence.

218. Some representatives noted with regret the sufferings of women and children in specific situations and mentioned in that connexion the recent war in Indo-China, the Khmer Republic, Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau, Israeli-occupied territories of the Middle East, Chile and Bangladesh.

219. The Government of South Africa was condemned by a number of representatives for its policy of apartheid, segregation, racism and repression; they pointed out that apartheid created special hardships for women and children.

220. Opinion was divided among the members as to the action which the Commission on the Status of Women should take with respect to the item. Some representatives stressed the need for the Commission to submit a draft declaration on the protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflicts for adoption by the General Assembly.

221. Several representatives spoke in favour of the adoption of such a declaration which they considered essential to the positive solution of the

52/ Summary records of the discussion of this item were provided.

problem under consideration. They emphasized that, though issues affecting women and children were inseparable from issues affecting human rights in general, women and children were the most vulnerable victims of armed conflicts and should therefore be given special priority in the development of international humanitarian law. They also pointed out that the consideration of the item by the Commission would encourage the forthcoming Diplomatic Conference to undertake special measures for the protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict.

222. It was the view of one representative that, while the United Nations had always been concerned with human rights in conditions of peace, it was only recently that an effort was being made to secure humanitarian principles in situations of emergency and armed conflict. Efforts to ensure such standards were steps towards making peace and the United Nations, by ensuring such standards, was taking important steps towards attaining peace.

223. A number of representatives stated, however, that though they welcomed the forthcoming Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law, they did not support the adoption of a declaration by the Commission for a number of reasons. They were of the opinion that the Commission was not the appropriate body to consider the problem of the protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict, which fell more within the competence of the forthcoming Diplomatic Conference. There was a danger, in their view, that the work of the Conference might be pre-empted or prejudiced by the adoption of the declaration by the Commission.

224. In the opinion of some representatives any effort directed toward singling out groups of civilians tended to detract from the general protection enjoyed by the civilian population as a whole. One representative did not consider it necessary to specify particular armed conflicts according to the motives of the combatants.

225. In the view of another representative, the inclusion in the draft declaration of the condemnation of imperialism and aggression, would strengthen it considerably, namely, by attacking the root of the problem.

226. The representative of ICRC reiterated her organization's interest in the subject. She outlined the relevant articles of the two draft additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, which she hoped would be adopted by the forthcoming Diplomatic Conference and which would mark a great contribution to the development of international humanitarian law.

Consideration of draft resolution and voting

227. At the 622nd meeting a draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.672/Rev.1) was submitted by the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Egypt, Guinea and Hungary. It contained a draft resolution recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council and a draft declaration recommended for adoption by the General Assembly. Introducing the Commission's draft resolution, the representative of Guinea expressed the concern felt by the sponsors at the non-implementation of existing instruments and the consequent suffering of women and children, which the proposed draft declaration sought to alleviate. The initial text of those parts of draft resolution E/CN.6/L.672/Rev.1 which were later to be modified read as follows:

"The Commission on the Status of Women

"Recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"The Economic and Social Council

"Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution and declaration:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"Noting with satisfaction the work of the International Committee of the Red Cross which is currently preparing two additional draft protocols on this subject, within the framework of the development of international law applying to the protection of human rights in armed conflicts,

"Noting with satisfaction that the Swiss Federal Council has convened the first session of the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflict, to be held in Geneva from 20 February to 29 March 1974, and welcoming as an excellent basis for discussion at the Conference the additional draft protocols to the 1949 Geneva Conventions prepared by the Red Cross,

"...

"Solemnly proclaims the following declaration with a view to provide special protection to women and children belonging to the civilian population and calls upon Member States to strictly observe it:

"...".

228. During the discussion of the draft resolution the sponsors made the following oral amendments:

(a) The sixth and seventh preambular paragraphs of the draft resolution recommended to the General Assembly, both beginning with the words "Noting with satisfaction" were deleted, the text to be used instead as preambular paragraphs of the Commission's draft resolution, after the words "The Commission on the Status of Women,";

(b) The operative paragraph of the Council's recommendation was modified to read:

"Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution containing a declaration on the protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence:";

(c) The operative paragraph of the draft resolution recommended to the Assembly, and containing the draft declaration, was amended to read as follows:

"Bearing in mind the need to provide special protection of women and children belonging to civilian population,

"Solemnly proclaims the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict, the text of which is set out below, and calls for the strict observance of the Declaration by all States Members of the United Nations."

229. At its 623rd meeting the Commission approved the revised draft resolution, as amended, by a vote of 20 to none, with 7 abstentions. /For the text, see Chapter I, draft resolution XIII./

230. The representative of Kenya announced that, had she been present during the voting, her vote would have been in the affirmative.

VIII. EXPLOITATION OF LABOUR THROUGH ILLICIT AND CLANDESTINE TRAFFICKING 53/

231. The Commission considered item 9 of its agenda at its 620th and 622nd meetings. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/582) pointing out that the Economic and Social Council, in paragraph 4 of its resolution 1789 (LIV), had requested the Commission to examine the question of exploitation of victims of clandestine traffic in labour, especially young women, taking into account the discussions in the Commission on Human Rights, and to report to the Economic and Social Council.

232. In introducing the note, the representative of the Secretary-General drew attention to the background of the question and indicated that it was under consideration by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the Commission on Human Rights, which had been asked to consider it as a matter of priority at its forthcoming thirtieth session. However, owing to the developments in the work of the Sub-Commission on the item, it was unlikely that the Commission on Human Rights would take a final decision on the matter at that session. She further indicated that the discussions at the twenty-ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights, held in 1973, had focused on two main issues: illicit and clandestine traffic of foreign labour, and discriminatory treatment of foreign and migrant workers, the latter being a topic which was currently being studied by the ILO. Attention was drawn to the suggestions of members of the Sub-Commission relating to measures that might be taken to deal with the exploitation of labour through illicit and clandestine trafficking and to the decision to appoint one of its members, Halima Warzazi, to prepare in co-operation with the Secretariat, a study on the question to be submitted to the Sub-Commission at its twenty-seventh session, in 1974 (see E/CN.6/582, paras. 21 and 24).

233. During the subsequent discussion it was suggested that the Commission should endorse the measures and suggestions made by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and also that the ILO should consider the preparation of further instruments dealing with the matter, including a convention on migration and the working conditions of migrant workers.

53/ Summary records of the discussion of this item were not provided.

234. One representative expressed concern with respect to illegal immigration and emigration of workers, particularly in countries where there were no border controls to regulate the recruitment of workers. In commenting on the different kinds of discriminatory treatment to which migrant workers including young women, were subjected she urged the ILO to look into the situation and to try to improve it.

235. The representative of the ILO noted that the International Labour Conference in 1972 had stressed the need to combat as soon as possible the unlawful forms of recruitment and treatment of workers, especially irregular procedures in training migrant workers.

236. The question of migrant workers was included in the agenda of the 1974 session of the International Labour Conference, and it was envisaged that the Conference, at its 1974 and 1975 sessions would prepare two conventions, the first dealing specifically with migration and abusive conditions, the second with equality of opportunities and treatment. Several studies relating to the subject were also being undertaken by the ILO. She also referred to the position of wives and families of the migrant workers, and noted that the report prepared for the Conference in 1974 stressed the importance of uniting migrant workers with their families both for the well-being of the migrant workers and their social adaptation in the receiving country; prolonged separation and isolation led to hardships and situations of stress affecting both the migrant and the family left behind, and prevented them from leading a normal family life.

237. The importance of full implementation of the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others adopted by the General Assembly on 2 December 1949 (resolution 317 (IV)) was also stressed, and it was emphasized that the reporting system relating to that Convention should be maintained.

238. The Commission agreed that the ILO and UNESCO should pay particular attention to the question of women in the context of their work relating to migrant workers and to submit the relevant information to the Commission on the Status of Women, and to the other bodies concerned. In particular, the ILO should be invited as part of its study of migrant workers at the 1974 International Labour Conference to consider (a) the position of women migrant workers and how it related to and compared with male migrant workers and (b) the position of wives and families of male migrant workers and the effects of the migration laws and policies on them and also their possibilities of finding employment. The Commission expressed the hope that in its studies on the exploitation of migrant workers and on strengthening the international rules for the protection of such workers, the ILO would take into special account the position of female workers facing particular hardships or forms of exploitation.

239. As regards Economic and Social Council resolution 1749 (LIV) on migrant workers, adopted on the recommendation of the Commission for Social Development, the Commission noted that three points appeared to be of special significance to women. Those points were (a) the social aspect of migration: the disintegration of the family, conditions of living of the members of the family staying in the country and of those in the receiving countries; (b) the legal aspect: protective laws on both leaving and receiving countries, social security and different kinds of bilateral agreements; (c) enforcement of measures adopted for the protection of the workers in the community.

240. Finally, the Commission requested Halima Warzazi to pay particular attention, in her study, to young women, victims of clandestine traffic, and to the plight of young girls and women who are lured into lives of prostitution by false promises of overseas jobs and to keep the Commission informed on progress and make available to her findings on matters of special interest to it (see paragraphs 279-281).

IX. INFLUENCE OF MASS COMMUNICATION MEDIA ON THE FORMATION OF NEW ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE ROLES OF WOMEN IN PRESENT-DAY SOCIETY 54/

241. The Commission considered item 10 of its agenda at its 623rd and 624th meetings. It had before it a report on the subject prepared by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/581).

242. In introducing the report, the representative of the Secretary-General stated that in view of the fact that only 28 Governments and 23 non-governmental organizations had supplied information, the report was of a preliminary nature. Most of the replies received considered the influence of the mass communication media on the formation of a new attitude towards the role of women in present-day society to be of the utmost importance and one that needed additional research. The replies also substantiated the view that although it was not often possible to separate the influence of the media from all other influences at work in forming people's attitudes towards women, mass media reflected not only what was going on in a community, reinforcing those concepts which were the most prevalent, but they also sparked off new trends and were exponents of new movements and changing values. The report of the Secretary-General, though preliminary, substantiated the concern implied by the Commission in its resolution 1 (XXIV) that the mass communication media might hinder the efforts of the United Nations to promote equality between men and women in law as well as in fact, and the efforts to integrate women in development.

243. Many representatives agreed that in general the mass media portrayed a negative image of women to society, referring to specific examples of how broadcasting - radio and television - and printed material, especially women's magazines, exercised a tremendous influence on the attitudes of the population, emphasizing traditional male and female stereotype roles. The degree of influence, varied, however, depending on the homogeneity of the population and the nature of the specific media. In rural areas of developing countries, for example, where illiteracy remained high, printed material had little impact, radio, however, had proved to be a more effective means of influencing peoples' attitudes and opinions. It was noted that the mere manipulative approach of the mass media to human beings as consumers without dignity, rights or much intelligence, and not as persons, was in itself a violation of human dignity. A few representatives stated that the influence of the mass communication media was not an isolated problem of each country, but one of global implications. The mass media did not at the present time possess the depth and range which the principles of freedom of speech required. Globally, the flow of information across the borders of countries with its corresponding portrayal of women's roles seemed to be a one-way, unbalanced traffic from western nations with their market economy systems to the developing and the socialist nations.

244. Many representatives referred to the pernicious effect of advertising on society's image of women's roles. It was stated that naked women, for example, were used to sell everything from automobiles to drain pipes.

54/ Summary records of the meetings at which the Commission discussed this item were provided.

245. As an example of the influence of mass media on attitudes and behaviour, some representatives referred to the influence of violence and horror on children's attitudes and values. Experiments had shown how children exposed to such programmes tended to be more violent and cruel in their behaviour towards others.

246. The influence of comic strips in the perpetuation of traditional stereotypes among children from a very early age and adults was also referred to. For example, Minnie Mouse was portrayed as being late for her dates, buying silly hats and unable to drive. One representative referred to the positive influence exercised by comic strips which were based on the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. A number of the main characters were women and they were courageous, wise and honest heroines.

247. One representative stated that in the socialist countries, the mass media exercised a positive influence on people's attitudes towards women. The media urged women not to be limited to domestic work but to actively engage themselves in all social and economic activities.

248. One representative contended that at the current stage effectiveness of action at the international level to combat the problem referred to in the Secretary-General's report was limited and efforts should be concentrated at the national level.

249. A few representatives referred to concrete efforts being made to redress the negative trend of the mass media in their countries. Some Governments were changing textbooks, curricula and other features of their educational systems which tended to portray women in their traditional roles of housewives and mothers and not as persons actively engaged in the development of their communities. One representative referred to special efforts being made to eliminate the stereotyped female image in children's books and in a few new broadcasting programmes. Women's studies programmes were also attempting to research the history of woman from available records.

250. Many representatives mentioned the need to find means to make the mass media a positive influence in the formation of new attitudes towards the roles women should play in today's society. Among the means suggested were: first, schools should offer special courses to teach children to be critical of the information they received from the mass media, to be able to distinguish different views expressed by it and to be less receptive to commercial manipulation; secondly, boys and girls should be educated through the mass media and the schools to become aware of the surrounding world and familiar with local, national and international affairs; thirdly, action between Governments and non-governmental organizations should be co-ordinated in order to make those who were responsible for such media as programmes, advertisements and articles - which were re-enforcing traditional female stereotypes - aware of the impact and negative influence in the people's attitudes towards women; fourthly, the number of women occupying positions in the world of the mass media at all levels, including policy-making positions, should be increased; fifthly, Governments, non-governmental organizations and educational institutions should carry out research on how the mass communication media could affect legislative and cultural changes in the roles women should play in today's world; sixthly, it was stated that as long as the media remained a commercial enterprise and/or dependent on advertisements, there was little hope that it would become an instrument of social change aiming at the improvement of the quality of life for men and women. Some stated that in their countries, radio and television were owned by the Government, others pointed out that although radio and television

were free and independent institutions and the Government did not interfere because of the principle of freedom of speech, no advertisements or commercials were permitted in those media.

251. Several representatives urged the Commission to give high priority to the item at its next session and expressed the hope that regional seminars would be organized in each continent, if possible, in co-ordination with the interdisciplinary studies on the subject to be carried out by UNESCO. One representative suggested that the Commission should also expand the scope of the study so as to cover some aspects of the roles of women which had so far been neglected, including such questions as the dignity of labour for both men and women.

Consideration of draft resolution and voting

252. A draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.673), entitled "Influence of mass communication media on the formation of a new attitude towards the role of women in present-day society", was submitted by Argentina, Belgium, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic. It recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of a draft resolution, the first preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 2 and 3 of which were amended in the course of the discussion and which initially read as follows:

"Noting that the preliminary report of the Secretary-General on the influence of mass communication media (E/CN.6/581) substantiates the concern expressed by the Commission in its resolution 1 (XXIV) of 18 February 1972, that the mass communication media perpetuate the traditional deep-rooted attitudes held by women and men about the roles of women in present-day society, and that the influence of the mass communication media in the determination of cultural patterns hinders efforts to promote equal rights of women and men and the integration of women in the development effort,

...

"2. Invites the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in co-operation with the United Nations to carry out pilot country studies on this question in conjunction with the interdisciplinary studies mentioned above;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a progress report on the influence of mass communication media on attitudes towards the roles of women in present-day society based on information available to him and to submit it to the Commission at its twenty-sixth session."

253. The representative of Colombia announced that the sponsors had agreed to amend the title of the draft resolution to read: "Influence of mass communication media on the formation of new attitudes towards the roles of women in present-day society".

254. The representative of Finland orally proposed that, in the first preambular paragraph, the words "the roles of women in present-day society" should be modified to read "their roles in present-day society" and that in operative paragraph 3 the words "the roles of women" should be changed to read "the roles of women and men". The proposals were accepted by the sponsors.

255. The representative of the USSR orally proposed that the words "in several countries" be inserted in the first preambular paragraph between the words "that" and "the mass communication media". The proposal was accepted by the sponsors.

256. She also proposed the insertion of the words "to consider the possibility sometime in the future" between the words "United Nations" and "to carry out" in operative paragraph 2. The proposal was accepted by the sponsors.

257. The representatives of Belgium, India and the Philippines orally proposed amendments which after consultation with the other sponsors were combined into a new operative paragraph 3 reading as follows:

"3. Invites all the organizations of the United Nations system and particularly the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to make a special effort to increase their audio-visual material and to develop their programmes in such a way as to promote the integration of women in development."

258. The representative of Belgium orally proposed a new operative paragraph 4 to read as follows:

"4. Invites Governments to urge the mass media, while having due regard to freedom of expression, to adapt their programmes in order to provide for men as well as women a continuing education as to their economic and professional prospects and opportunities for leisure, family life and broadening horizons;"

The Belgian amendment was accepted by the sponsors, and the text of the initial operative paragraph 3 was put at the end of the draft resolution as operative paragraph 5.

259. At its 624th meeting, the Commission unanimously approved the draft resolution as amended. /For the text, see chapter I, draft resolution XIV./

X. PROGRAMME OF WORK AND ESTABLISHMENT OF PRIORITIES 55/

260. At its 624th and 625th meetings, the Commission considered item 11 of its agenda relating to the programme of work and establishment of priorities. It had before it a report of the Secretary-General on the subject (E/CN.6/585 and Corr.1 and Add.1).

261. In introducing the report, the representative of the Secretary-General emphasized that its form differed from previous reports on the work programme submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women. It had been prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3043 (XXVII) which had approved a new form of presentation of the budget on a programme basis and the introduction of a biennial budget cycle and a medium-term plan. She drew the attention of the members of the Commission to the eight fundamental activities of the work programme for the promotion of equality of men and women which have been formulated in accordance with decisions and interests expressed by the Commission and policies laid down by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. She invited the members of the Commission in particular to express their views as regards proposed programme objectives for 1976-1979. She also drew attention to Economic and Social Council resolution 1787 (LIV) on the study of discrimination against persons born out of wedlock and draft general principles on equality and non-discrimination in respect of such persons, more particularly to paragraph 3 of the resolution which invited the Commission to consider, as appropriate, the study and the draft general principles in the light of the comments received by the Secretary-General from Governments, specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status.

262. Members of the Commission approved of the programme of work and establishment of priorities contained in the report of the Secretary-General. They indicated their wish that the various decisions and requests of the Commission at the current session would be reflected in its future work programme. One representative expressed regret that the report did not contain budget estimates relating to the various activities of the work programme.

263. Members of the Commission made a number of suggestions regarding the work programme. Some were of a general nature, others were more specific.

264. There was agreement that the work programme was very vast, and concern was expressed as to whether the Promotion of Equality of Men and Women Branch of the Secretariat was adequately staffed to discharge its various responsibilities. On the other hand, members also agreed that the Commission in future sessions should have before it a limited agenda containing no more than four or five items so that they could devote more time and thought to the substance of the discussion.

55/ Summary records of the discussion of this item were provided.

265. There was also agreement that a special effort should be made by the Secretariat as well as by Governments and their Permanent Missions to the United Nations to have the documents prepared for the Commission's consideration sent to Governments in accordance with the six-week rule laid down by the Economic and Social Council. In that connexion, disappointment was expressed that, despite the periodicity of the sessions of the Commission which was now on a biennial basis, progress had not been made in that regard and documents were submitted too late to permit Governments and members of the Commission to study them carefully.

266. Various members of the Commission were of the opinion that a committee on resolutions should be set up during the session in order to help with the drafting and prevent the proliferation of resolutions.

267. Different views were expressed as to the name of the Commission on the Status of Women. While according to some members its name needed to be changed so as to conform with that of the Promotion of Equality of Men and Women Branch, others felt that the question of a new name should be studied carefully. Some representatives believed that since the Commission had been known for 26 years as the Commission on the Status of Women a change would only create confusion and that what was really important was the content of the programme. It was suggested also that the title of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women should be changed to "Convention on the Promotion of Equality between Men and Women".

268. Referring to the eight specific activities of the work programme as mentioned in paragraph 5 of the Secretary-General's report different opinions were expressed as to whether it would be appropriate to combine activities under the second item listed therein, relating to a programme of concerted international action for the integration of women in development, with the seventh item, on informational and educational activities, and the eighth item, on technical co-operation activities.

269. The suggestion was made that the sixth of the specific activities, concerning the condition of women and children in special situations, could be deleted altogether since it could be dealt with by other United Nations organs concerned with the general question of human rights in armed conflict. The activities could then include the consideration of problems relating to women workers and illicit traffic in women, however, should be retained.

270. As regards paragraphs 9 and 15, appearing under chapter I, section A, of the report, entitled "Elaboration and implementation of international instruments", should be replaced by a reference to a convention.

271. With respect to subparagraph 18 (c), appearing under section B, entitled "Programme of concerted international action for the integration of women in development", it was felt that the proposed study to be submitted to ECLA would be an excellent starting-point to combat discrimination against women in the region. Concerning the pilot country studies mentioned in subparagraph 18 (d), the hope was expressed that a few of them might be ready for submission to the Commission at its next session. It was also hoped that studies might be made which would give a new status to traditional occupations, such as cooking and housekeeping, in which women were particularly skilled.

272. Concerning paragraph 20, appearing under the same heading, the hope was expressed that mass communication media should be used to the fullest extent to encourage the concept of the dignity of labour.

273. Concerning paragraph 33, appearing under section D, entitled "Women's role, rights and responsibilities in the family", one representative expressed the view that, since a comprehensive convention on the elimination of discrimination against women would be adopted, there was no need to envisage the possibility of elaborating a special convention or conventions in the field of family law. Concerning paragraph 52, under section H, entitled "Substantive support for technical activities", there was support concerning the expansion of such activities, but a warning was expressed that too many activities of that type might not permit the Promotion of Equality of Men and Women Branch to carry out its other substantive activities.

274. Referring to paragraph 36, concerning the status of women and family planning, one representative was of the opinion that there no longer was any need to carry out the two remaining in-depth country studies mentioned therein.

275. As regards informational and educational activities, discussed in paragraphs 45 to 49 of the report, it was suggested that increased co-operation with the Office of Public Information should be sought. Also, the view was expressed that greater effort should be made to reach women at the grass-roots level and that methods should be elaborated to that effect. Referring to the Newsletter on the Status of Women it was felt that it should be distributed much more widely.

Decision of the Commission

276. A few members felt that the fourth activity listed in paragraph 5 of the Secretary-General's report, relating to women's role, rights and responsibilities in the family, could be extended to include women's role in public life or society. Concerning the invitation of the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1787 (LIV) to the Commission to consider, as appropriate, the publication entitled The Study of Discrimination against Persons Born out of Wedlock, 56/ together with the draft general principles on equality and non-discrimination in respect of such persons, the Commission recalled that those principles had already been examined at the twentieth session, in 1967. At that session the Commission, in its resolution 6 (XX), had expressed its support of the draft principles and initiated the preparation of a study on the status of the unmarried mother. 57/ That had led to the elaboration by the Council in 1972 of a set of general principles to eliminate discrimination against the unmarried mother (Council resolution 1679 (LII)). In the light of the foregoing, the Commission decided, at its 623rd meeting, that it was unnecessary for it to take further action with respect to Council resolution 1787 (LIV) (see paragraph 6 above).

XI. ADOPTION OF THE COMMISSION'S REPORT

277. At its 629th meeting on 1 February 1974, the Commission on the Status of Women adopted by consensus its draft report on its twenty-fifth session. (E/CN.6/L.660 and Add.1-15).

56/ United Nations publication, Sales No. 68.XIV.3.

57/ The Status of the Unmarried Mother: Law and Practice (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.71.IV.4).

XII. RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER DECISIONS OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN AT ITS TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION WHICH DO NOT REQUIRE ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

A. Resolutions

278. The Commission adopted the following resolution:

- 1 (XXV). Consideration of proposals concerning a new instrument or instruments of international law to eliminate discrimination against women 58/

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Having considered item 4 of its agenda, entitled "Consideration of proposals concerning a new instrument or instruments of international law to eliminate discrimination against women",

Concerned at the continuing discrimination against women,

Desiring to give effect to the principles set out in the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and to ensure the speedy adoption of the necessary practical measures for that purpose,

Recalling its resolution 5 (XXIV) establishing a Working Group on the preparation of a new draft instrument or instruments of international law to eliminate discrimination against women,

1. Takes note of the work performed by the Working Group;

2. Invites the Secretary-General:

(a) To call on Governments of States Members of the United Nations, on specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the United Nations, to transmit their comments on the drafts contained in the report of the Working Group (E/CN.6/574);

(b) To prepare a working paper taking into account the replies of Governments, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations;

3. Requests Member States, bearing in mind that 1975 has been designated International Women's Year, to examine those drafts as a matter of priority.

4. Resolves to place on the agenda of its twenty-sixth session an item entitled "Consideration of a draft convention on the elimination of discrimination against women",

58/ See paragraphs 84-91 above.

5. Requests the Secretary-General to send in good time to the members of the Commission on the Status of Women for their consideration, the working paper referred to in subparagraph 2 (b) above.

Adopted at the 618th meeting,
25 January 1974/

B. Other decisions

279. At its 622nd meeting, on 29 January 1974, the Commission concluded that the ILO and UNESCO should pay particular attention to the question of women in the context of their work relating to migrant workers and to submit the relevant information to the Commission, and to the other bodies concerned. In particular, the ILO should be invited as part of its study of migrant workers at its 1974 International Labour Conference to consider the position of women migrant workers and how it related to and compared with male migrant workers and the position of wives and families of male migrant workers and the effects of the migration laws and policies on them and also their possibilities of finding employment. The Commission expressed the hope that in its studies on the exploitation of migrant workers and on strengthening the international rules for the protection of such workers, the ILO would take into special account the position of female workers who face particular hardships or forms of exploitation.

280. As regards Economic and Social Council resolution 1749 (LIV) on migrant workers, adopted on the recommendation of the Commission for Social Development, the Commission noted that three points appeared to be of special significance to women: (a) the social aspect of migration: the disintegration of the family, conditions of living of the members of the family staying in the country and of those in the receiving countries; (b) the legal aspect: protective laws on both leaving and receiving countries, social security and different kinds of bilateral agreement; (c) enforcement of measures adopted for the protection of the workers in the community.

281. Finally, at the same meeting the Commission decided to request Halima Warzazi to pay particular attention to young women victims of clandestine traffic and to the plight of young girls and women who are lured into lives of prostitution by false promises of overseas jobs and to keep the Commission informed on progress and make available to her findings on matters of special interest to it.

282. For other decisions of the Commissions, relating to consideration of proposals concerning a new instrument or instruments of international law to eliminate discrimination against women, communications concerning the status of women, study on the interrelationship of the status of women and family planning, and programme of work and establishment of priorities, which it has brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council, see paragraphs 2-6.

XIII. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

Opening and duration of the session

283. The Commission on the Status of Women held its twenty-fifth session at United Nations Headquarters from 14 January to 1 February 1974. The Commission held 31 plenary meetings (599th-629th meetings).

284. The session was opened by Eugenia A. Stevenson (Liberia), Chairman of the Commission at its twenty-fourth session.

Attendance

285. The following States members of the Commission were represented: Argentina, Belgium, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Finland, France, Greece, Guinea, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Liberia, Nicaragua, ^{59/} Nigeria, Norway, Philippines, Romania, Thailand, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Zaire. The Central African Republic and Madagascar, also members of the Commission, were not represented. Observers of other States Members of the United Nations, representatives of bodies of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations also attended the session. A complete list is given in annex I to the present report.

Election of officers

286. At its 599th meeting, on 14 January 1974, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation: Chairman, Leticia Ramos Shahani (Philippines); Vice-Chairmen, Licelott Marte de Barrios (Dominican Republic), Eva Kolstad (Norway) and Hanna Bokor (Hungary); Rapporteur, Ruda Titenwa Mohammed (Nigeria).

Agenda

287. The Commission considered its agenda at its 600th meeting. It had before it the provisional agenda (E/CN.6/570 and Corr.1) drawn up by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission at its twenty-fourth session. After some discussion, the Commission agreed that subitem 4 (b) of the provisional agenda should become an independent item. It further agreed to revise slightly the order of items. The provisional agenda, as a whole, as amended, was adopted without objection.

288. The agenda adopted by the Commission (E/CN.6/587) is reproduced in annex II to the present report.

^{59/} Attended the 628th meeting only.

Summary records, resolutions and recommendations

289. The Commission decided, at its 600th meeting, to have summary records of the discussion of items 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 11.

290. The draft resolutions recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council and the decisions taken by the Commission of special relevance to the Council during its twenty-fifth session are reproduced in chapter I of the present report. One other resolution and decision adopted by the Commission appear in chapter XII.

291. The documents before the Commission at its twenty-fifth session are listed in annex III.

292. In the course of its twenty-fifth session, the Commission took note of statements by the Secretary-General on proposals having administrative and financial implications which would involve additional budgetary provisions. The statements concerning proposals adopted by the Commission are given in annex IV.

Consultations with non-governmental organizations

293. In accordance with rule 75 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the observers of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council made statements during the twenty-fifth session:

Category I: International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (items 3, 4 and 6), International Planned Parenthood Federation (items 3 and 6), Women's International Democratic Federation (items 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8).

Category II: All-African Women's Conference (items 5 and 9); International Alliance of Women (items 6, 8 and 10); International Committee of the Red Cross (item 3); International Council of Social Democratic Women (item 4); International Federation of Business and Professional Women (item 3); St. Joan's International Alliance (item 9) and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (item 8).

Written statements submitted by non-governmental organizations are listed in annex III.

ANNEXES

Annex I

ATTENDANCE

Members

<u>Argentina:</u>	Blanca Stabile de Machinandiaarena
<u>Belgium:</u>	Christiane Hoogstoel-Fabri
<u>Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic:</u>	L. P. Marinkevich
<u>Canada:</u>	Rita Cadieux
<u>Central African Republic:</u>	a/
<u>Chile:</u>	Alicia Romo Román
<u>China:</u>	WU Tsien <u>b/</u> LI Su-wen <u>c/</u>
<u>Colombia:</u>	Lilia Sánchez Torres
<u>Costa Rica:</u>	Thelma Curling
<u>Dominican Republic:</u>	Licelott Marte de Barrios
<u>Egypt:</u>	Aziza Hussein
<u>Finland:</u>	Helvi Saarinen
<u>France:</u>	Jeanne Chaton
<u>Greece:</u>	Elli Krispi-Nicoletopoulou <u>b/</u> Erica Irene A. Daes <u>c/</u>
<u>Guinea:</u>	Sophie Maka
<u>Hungary:</u>	Hanna Bokor
<u>India:</u>	Kamila Tyabji

a/ Not represented at the session.

b/ Did not attend the session.

c/ Acted as representative.

<u>Indonesia:</u>	Yetty Rizali Noor
<u>Japan:</u>	Taki Fujita <u>b/</u> Ayako Oba <u>c/</u>
<u>Kenya:</u>	Phoebe M. Asiyó
<u>Liberia:</u>	Eugenia A. Stevenson
<u>Madagascar:</u>	Donà Lucette Ramanantsoavina <u>b/</u>
<u>Nicaragua:</u>	Amelia Borge de Sotomayor <u>b/</u> José María Lugo <u>d/</u>
<u>Nigeria:</u>	Ruda Titemwa Mohammed
<u>Norway:</u>	Eva Kolstad
<u>Philippines:</u>	Leticia Ramos Shahani
<u>Romania:</u>	Florica Paula Andrei
<u>Thailand:</u>	Ubol Huvanandana
<u>Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:</u>	T. N. Nikolaeva
<u>United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:</u>	Janet Cockcroft
<u>United States of America:</u>	Patricia Hutar
<u>Zaire:</u>	Sekela Kaninda

States Members of the United Nations represented by observers

Australia, Austria, Cuba, Denmark, Germany (Federal Republic of), Israel, Sweden, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Yugoslavia.

United Nations Secretariat

Economic Commission for Africa

d/ Acted as representative at the 628th meeting.

United Nations bodies

United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Fund for Population Activities, United Nations Environment Programme.

Specialized agencies

International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization.

Intergovernmental organizations

Committee on the Status of Arab Women, Inter-American Commission of Women.

Non-governmental organizations

Category I: International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Council of Women, International Council on Social Welfare, International Planned Parenthood Federation, League of Red Cross Societies, Women's International Democratic Federation, World Federation of United Nations Associations.

Category II: Associated Country Women of the World, Bahá'í International Community, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, International Alliance of Women, International Committee of the Red Cross, International Conference of Catholic Charities, International Council of Jewish Women, International Council of Social Democratic Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Federation of University Women, International Federation of Women Lawyers, International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples, Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association, St. Joan's International Alliance, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Women's International Zionist Organization, World Conference of Religion for Peace, World Federation of Catholic Youth, World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations, World's Women's Christian Temperance Union, World Young Women's Christian Association, Zonta International.

Roster: International Humanist and Ethical Union.

Annex II

AGENDA

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. International Women's Year
4. Consideration of proposals concerning a new instrument or instruments of international law to eliminate discrimination against women
5. International instruments and national standards relating to the status of women:
 - (a) Implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and related instruments;
 - (b) Legal capacity of married women and related questions;
 - (c) Communications concerning the status of women
6. Study on the interrelationship of the status of women and family planning
7. Programme of concerted international action to promote the advancement of women and their integration in development:
 - (a) Implementation of a programme of concerted international action;
 - (b) Status of rural women, especially agricultural workers;
 - (c) Technical co-operation activities for the advancement of women;
 - (d) Activities of the specialized agencies to promote the advancement of women;
 - (e) Co-operation with intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system
8. Protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence
9. Exploitation of labour through illicit and clandestine trafficking
10. Influence of mass communication media on the formation of a new attitude towards the role of women in present-day society
11. Programme of work and establishment of priorities
12. Report of the Commission on its twenty-fifth session

Annex III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE COMMISSION AT ITS TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION

<u>Document No.</u>	<u>Agenda item No.</u>	<u>Title</u>
A/9006/Add.1 (Part I)	11	Medium-term plan for the period 1974-1977 <u>(Official Records of the General Assembly Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 6A)</u>
A/9008	11	Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1974-1975 <u>(Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 8)</u>
E/5109 and Add.1		Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its twenty-fourth session <u>(Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 6)</u>
E/CN.5/481	7 (a)	Report of the Interregional Meeting of Experts on the Integration of Women in Development: summary
E/CN.6/514/Rev.1	7 (a)	<u>Participation of Women in Community Development</u> (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.72.IV.8)
E/CN.6/566/Rev.1	7 (b)	Study on the equality of access of girls and women to education in the context of rural development: report prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
E/CN.6/569 E/CN.4/1122	7 (c)	Advisory services in the field of human rights: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.6/570	2	Provisional agenda for the twenty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women
E/CN.6/571 and Add.1 and 2	5 (a)	Implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and related instruments: report of the Secretary-General

<u>Document No.</u>	<u>Agenda item No.</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/CN.6/572	7 (e)	Programme of concerted international action to promote the advancement of women and their integration in development - Co-operation with intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system: report of the Inter-American Commission of Women
E/CN.6/573	5 (b)	International instruments and national standards relating to the status of women - Consideration of proposals concerning a new instrument or instruments of international law to eliminate discrimination against women: working paper by the Secretary-General
E/CN.6/574	4	Report of the Working Group established by Commission resolution 5 (XXIV)
E/CN.6/575 and Add.1-3	6	Study on the interrelationship of the status of women and family planning: report of the Special Rapporteur
E/CN.6/576	3	International Women's Year: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.6/577	7 (a)	Implementation of a programme of concerted international action: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.6/578	7 (e)	Programme of concerted international action to promote the advancement of women and their integration in development - Co-operation with intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.6/579	7 (d)	Activities of the specialized agencies to promote the advancement of women - International Labour Organisation activities of special interest in relation to the employment of women: note by the Secretary-General
E/CN.6/580	7 (d)	Activities of the specialized agencies to promote the advancement of women - Study on United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's activities of special interest to women: note by the Secretary-General

<u>Document No.</u>	<u>Agenda item No.</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/CN.6/581	10	Influence of mass communication media on the formation of a new attitude towards the role of women in present-day society: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.6/582	9	Exploitation of labour through illicit and clandestine trafficking: note by the Secretary-General
E/CN.6/583	7 (b)	Status of rural women, especially agricultural workers: note by the Secretary-General
E/CN.6/583/Add.1	7 (b)	Status of rural women, especially agricultural workers: report prepared by the International Labour Organisation
E/CN.6/583/Add.2	7 (b)	Status of rural women, especially agricultural workers: report prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
E/CN.6/584	5 (b)	Legal capacity of married women; capacity to engage in independent work: progress report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.6/585 and Corr.1 and Add.1	11	Programme of work and establishment of priorities - work programme for 1974-1975, medium-term plan for 1974-1977 and proposed programme objectives for 1976-1979: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.6/586	8	Protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.6/587	2	Agenda of the twenty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women as adopted by the Commission at its 600th meeting, on 14 January 1974
E/CN.6/588	3	International Women's Year: report of the Working Group established to work out a draft programme of activities
E/CN.6/AC.1/L.1	4	Provisional agenda of the Working Group on a New Instrument or Instruments of International Law to Eliminate Discrimination against Women

<u>Document No.</u>	<u>Agenda item No.</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/CN.6/AC.1/L.2	4	Consideration of proposals concerning a new instrument or instruments of international law to eliminate discrimination against women: working paper submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
E/CN.6/AC.1/L.3	4	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: amendment to the draft convention on the elimination of discrimination against women proposed by the Philippines
E/CN.6/AC.1/L.4 and Corr.1, Add.1/Rev.1, and Add.2-4	4	Draft convention on the elimination of all discrimination against women: working paper submitted by the Philippines and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
E/CN.6/AC.1/L.5	4	Egypt, Nigeria and Zaire: draft proposals concerning the measures of implementation of the draft convention
E/CN.6/AC.1/L.6 and Add.1	4	Articles considered by the Working Group at its fourth and fifth meetings, on 8 and 9 January 1974: working paper by the Secretariat
E/CN.6/AC.1/L.7	4	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: amendment to the working paper submitted by the Philippines and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (E/CN.6/AC.1/L.4/Add.2)
E/CN.6/AC.1/L.8	4	International Labour Office: suggested new article 16 of the draft convention on the elimination of discrimination against women
E/CN.6/AC.1/L.9 and Corr.1	4	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: amendment to articles 12, 13, 14 and 15 of the working paper of the Philippines and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (E/CN.6/AC.1/L.4/Add.2)
E/CN.6/AC.1/L.10	4	United States of America: amendments to articles 13 and 14 of the working paper of the Philippines and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (E/CN.6/AC.1/L.4/Add.2)
E/CN.6/AC.1/L.11	4	Egypt and Finland: amendments to articles 16 and 17 of the working paper submitted by the Philippines and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (E/CN.6/AC.1/L.4/Add.3)

<u>Document No.</u>	<u>Agenda item No.</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/CN.6/AC.1/L.12	4	Draft report of the Working Group to the Commission on the Status of Women
E/CN.6/CR.24	5 (d)	Non-confidential list of communications received
E/CN.6/L.658	3	United States of America: draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.658/Rev.1	3	Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, Philippines, Thailand and United States of America: revised draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.658/Rev.2	3	Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, Philippines, Thailand and United States of America: revised draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.659	3	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: amendments to draft resolution E/CN.6/L.658
E/CN.6/L.660 and Add.1-15	12	Draft report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its twenty-fifth session
E/CN.6/L.661	5 (a)	Dominican Republic, Indonesia and Philippines: draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.662	5 (b)	Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Philippines, Romania and Thailand: draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.663	7 (a)	India: draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.664	7 (b)	Costa Rica, Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand: draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.665	7 (a)	Egypt, France and Liberia: draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.665/Rev.1	7 (a)	Dominican Republic, Egypt, France, Liberia and United States of America: revised draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.666	7 (d)	Egypt, Greece, Guinea, Hungary, Romania and Zaire: draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.667	4	Belgium, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, France: draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.667/Rev.1	4	Belgium, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, France: revised draft resolution

<u>Document No.</u>	<u>Agenda item No.</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/CN.6/L.668	6	Dominican Republic, Egypt, Finland and United States of America: draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.668/Rev.1	6	Dominican Republic, Egypt, Finland and United States of America: revised draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.669	7 (a)	United States of America: amendments to draft resolution E/CN.6/L.665
E/CN.6/L.670	7 (a)	Dominican Republic and Norway: draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.670/Rev.1	7 (a)	Dominican Republic and Norway: revised draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.671	7 (d)	Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, France, Greece, Kenya, Nigeria and Zaire: draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.672	8	Byelorussian SSR, Egypt, Guinea, Hungary: draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.672/Rev.1	8	Byelorussian SSR, Egypt, Guinea, Hungary: revised draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.673	10	Argentina, Belgium, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic: draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.674	3	Administrative and financial implications of document E/CN.6/L.658: note by the Secretary-General
E/CN.6/L.675	3	Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Liberia and Nigeria: draft resolution
E/CN.6/NGO/247	11	Work programme and medium-term plan: statement submitted by the Bahá'í International Community
E/CN.6/NGO/248 and Add.1	3	International Women's Year: statement submitted by the International Council of Women (category I), Bahá'í International Community, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, International Alliance of Women, International Council for Social Welfare, International Council of Jewish Women, International Council of Social Democratic Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Federation of Social Workers, Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association, St. Joan's International Alliance, Soroptimist International Association,

<u>Document No.</u>	<u>Agenda item No.</u>	<u>Title</u>
		Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations, and World Women's Christian Temperance Union (category II)
E/CN.6/NGO/249 and Add.1	3	International Women's Year: statement submitted by the International Council of Women (category I), Bahá'í International Community, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, International Alliance of Women, International Council for Social Welfare, International Council of Jewish Women, International Council of Social Democratic Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Federation of Social Workers, St. Joan's International Alliance, Soroptimist International Association, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations, and World Women's Christian Temperance Union (category II)
E/CN.6/NGO/250 and Add.1	6	Study of the interrelationship of the status of women and family planning: statement submitted by the International Council of Women (category I), Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, International Alliance of Women, International Council for Social Welfare, International Council of Jewish Women, International Council of Social Democratic Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Federation of Social Workers, Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association, St. Joan's International Alliance, Soroptimist International Association, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and World Women's Christian Temperance Union (category II)
E/CN.6/NGO/251	3	International Women's Year: statement submitted by the Bahá'í International Community
E/CN.6/NGO/252	5 (a)	Implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and related instruments: statement submitted by the Bahá'í International Community
E/CN.6/NGO/253	7 (b)	Status of rural women, especially agricultural workers: statement submitted by the Associated Country Women of the World

<u>Document No.</u>	<u>Agenda item No.</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/CN.6/NGO/254	4 and 5	Consideration of proposals concerning a new instrument or instruments of international law to eliminate discrimination against women: statement submitted by the Women's International Democratic Federation
E/CN.6/NGO/255	8	Protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence: statement submitted by the Women's International Democratic Federation
E/CN.6/NGO/256	7 (b)	Status of rural women, especially agricultural workers: statement submitted by the Women's International Democratic Federation
E/CN.6/NGO/257	3	International Women's Year: statement submitted by the Women's International Democratic Federation
E/CN.6/WG.1/CRP.1 and Corr.1 and Add.1	3	Belgium, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Egypt, Finland, Norway, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: amendments to document E/CN.6/576
E/CN.6/WG.1/CRP.2	3	Greece: suggestions concerning document E/CN.6/576
E/CN.6/WG.1/CRP.3	3	India: suggestions concerning document E/CN.6/576
E/CN.6/WG.1/CRP.4	3	Greece: draft resolution
E/CN.6/WG.1/CRP.5 <u>a/</u>		
E/CN.6/WG.1/CRP.6	3	Belgium, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Egypt, Finland, Norway, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: amendments to document E/CN.6/576
E/CN.6/WG.1/CRP.7	3	France and Greece: draft resolution
E/CN.6/WG.1/CRP.8	3	United States of America: amendments to document E/CN.6/576

a/ No document was issued under this symbol.

<u>Document No.</u>	<u>Agenda item No.</u>	<u>Title</u>
ESA/SDHA/AC.1/26	6	Regional Seminar on the Status of Women and Family Planning for Countries of the Western Hemisphere
ESA/SDHA/AC.2/21	6	Regional Seminar on the Status of Women and Family Planning for Countries within the ECAFE region
ESA/SDHA/AC.3/12	7 (c)	Interregional Seminar on the Family in a Changing Society: problems and responsibilities of its members
ST/SOA/120	7 (a)	<u>Report of the Interregional Meeting of Experts on the Integration of Women in Development</u> (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.73.IV.12)
ST/TAO/HR/46	6	Seminar on the Status of Women and Family Planning, Istanbul, Turkey, 11-24 July 1972

Annex IV

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF DECISIONS TAKEN
BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION

Draft resolution E/CN.6/L.658^{a/}

1. Under the terms of the operative paragraph of draft resolution E/CN.6/L.658 (see chapter I, draft resolution III), the Economic and Social Council would request the Secretary-General to organize in 1975, in consultation with States Members of the United Nations, specialized agencies and interested non-governmental organizations, an international conference during the International Women's Year to examine progress made by the organs of the United Nations system in implementing the recommendations of the Commission during its existence for the elimination of discrimination against women; to consider further programmes to encourage the full integration of women in the total development effort; to develop a plan of activity that will increase women's contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Second United Nations Development Decade, and to recognize the importance of women's increasing contribution to friendly relations, co-operation and world peace.

2. Should the Council approve the holding of an international women's conference in 1975, financial implications would arise, which may be estimated on the following assumptions:

- (a) The conference would be held for two weeks, from 17 to 28 February 1975; b/
- (b) Not more than two simultaneous meetings would take place during the conference;
- (c) The languages of the conference would be Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish;
- (d) The proceedings would be sound-recorded;
- (e) The cost estimates provided herein are based upon the conference being held at United Nations Headquarters;
- (f) Should any Government wish to host the conference and should such invitation be accepted by the Council, the host Government would be required, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2609 (XXIV), to bear the additional costs of holding the conference at a place other than at United Nations Headquarters.

a/ A statement of the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution was contained in a note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/L.674).

b/ See the appendix to the present annex.

3. On the basis of the above assumptions, the financial implications of the proposed international women's conference are estimated as follows:

United States dollars

(a) Staff

The preparatory process of the conference would require additional staff resources for substantive, administrative and external relations activities for which no provision has been made in the 1974-1975 approved programme budget (1 P-5, 3 P-4, 3 GS for nine months each) 140,500

(b) Consultants

The preparation of some of the substantive conference documents would require the services of consultants for a total of six man-months. 18,000

(c) Rental of office space 7,100

(d) Furniture and equipment 4,800

(e) Miscellaneous (cables, pouch, communication, hospitality, etc.) 15,000

(f) Travel

Travel of staff in connexion with conference preparations and activities 12,000

(g) Conference servicing

(i) Interpretation 31,200

(ii) Translation, typing and reproduction of 600 pages of pre-session documentation, 200 pages of in-session documentation and 100 pages of post-session documentation, including the printing of a 100-page final report 71,400

TOTAL. 300,000

Draft resolution E/CH.6/L.665/Rev.1

4. At the 627th meeting, on 31 January 1974, the representative of the Secretary-General informed the Commission in connexion with draft resolution E/CH.6/L.665/Rev.1, recommended to the Economic and Social Council for adoption, that the decision in operative paragraph 2 had financial implications (see

chapter I, draft resolution VII). On the assumption that the Chairman would attend the forthcoming sessions of both bodies, the cost of travel and subsistence was estimated at \$2,000 in respect of the Committee for Development Planning, in Vienna, and \$2,500 in respect of the Committee on Review and Appraisal, in New York. Should the Chairman designate another member of the Commission who was based closer to the venues of the sessions in question, the estimated cost of travel would be reduced accordingly.

Appendix

1. The Secretary-General, in accordance with the decisions of the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session, wishes to indicate that the following major conferences have already been scheduled for 1975:

	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
(a)	Second General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization	12-26 March
(b)	Fifth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders	1-15 September
(c)	United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (if required)	To be determined
(d)	International Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Representation of States in their Relations with International Organizations	Early 1975
(e)	Review Conference of Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons	5-30 May

2. The Secretary-General, after taking into account the approved calendar of conferences for 1975, considers the suggested dates of 17-28 February to be the only feasible period during which the conference servicing could be provided most economically.

Annex V

PROGRAMME FOR THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR, 1975^{a/}

"Considering that discrimination against women is incompatible with human dignity and with the welfare of the family and of society, prevents their participation, on equal terms with men, in the political, social, economic and cultural life of their countries and is an obstacle to the full development of the potentialities of women in the service of their countries and of humanity;

"Convinced that the full and complete development of a country, the welfare of the world, and the cause of peace require the maximum participation of women as well as men in all fields."

Extract from the preamble to the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 2263 (XXII) of 7 November 1967

I. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE YEAR

1. The International Women's Year, proclaimed by the General Assembly on 18 December 1972 (resolution 3010 (XXVII)) is to be devoted to intensified action:

"(a) To promote equality between men and women;

"(b) To ensure the full integration of women in the total development effort, especially by emphasizing women's responsibility and important role in economic, social and cultural development at the national, regional and international levels, particularly during the Second United Nations Development Decade;

"(c) To recognize the importance of women's increasing contribution to the development of friendly relations and co-operation among States and to the strengthening of world peace."

2. The central theme therefore is: EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE.

3. The Year should be a time to review and evaluate progress made in these three areas since the United Nations Charter established the basic goals in 1945. It should also stimulate new initiatives and develop or set in motion dynamic national, regional and international action programmes.

^{a/} Approved at the 627th meeting of the Commission on 31 January 1974.

4. Widespread publicity and promotional efforts are needed, along with substantive activities designed to have a continuing impact in the years ahead, as part of a sustained long-term effort of the international community to improve the condition of women and their contribution to society.

5. The Year should demonstrate the value of a unified approach to issues of human rights, development and peace, which cannot be successfully dealt with as isolated questions distinct from each other. It should be viewed as an event in which both men and women will participate.

6. At the same time, the activities and programmes should find an echo among men and women from urban and rural areas, from all walks of life, in all countries, and stimulate their imagination and their creativity. As a large number of activities will be organized and carried out in connexion with the Year, appropriate governmental and non-governmental authorities should be requested to make adequate budgetary allocations.

II. OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

7. The many declarations, conventions and other recommendations adopted by the United Nations and the specialized agencies have established international goals and objectives, all of which provide guidance for the elaboration of national, regional and international programmes for the observance of the International Women's Year; among them the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights, the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, the International Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade (General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV)) and the programme of concerted international action for the advancement of women (General Assembly resolution 2716 (XXV)). The specific objectives set forth below are based on these and other instruments and should be especially emphasized in the programmes and activities undertaken in observance of the Year. b/

8. Programmes and activities should be directed, as part of the total development effort, in particular towards:

A. Equality

(a) Achieving full equality before the law in all fields where it does not yet exist;

(b) Meeting the health needs of girls and women equally with those of boys and men, which should be recognized as a prerequisite to the promotion of equality between them and to the full participation of both in the development effort;

(c) Promoting equality of economic rights, including the right to work and the right to equal pay for work of equal value, non-discrimination in

b/ A list of relevant human rights instruments appears in Appendix II below.

employment opportunities, governmental as well as private, and security of employment after marriage;

(d) Promoting equality of rights and responsibilities in the family and home and creating awareness and recognition that men and women have equal rights and obligations towards themselves as individuals, towards their children as parents, and towards their societies as citizens;

(e) Ensuring that women as well as men participate fully and as equal partners in policy formulation and decision-making at the local, national and international levels, including development planning, educational programming and questions of foreign policy such as disarmament and the strengthening of friendly relations among States;

B. Development

(f) Improving the awareness of women in the developed countries through effective information and education, of the living conditions and problems of women in the developing areas in order to intensify the contribution of the former to international development co-operation;

(g) Improving the living and working conditions as well as the status of both men and women throughout the community and expanding freedom of choice for all persons in planning life patterns that permit the development of their potential as individuals;

(h) Improving the quality of rural life through the provision of cultural, educational and employment opportunities in the rural areas;

(i) Improving the condition of rural women on an equal basis with men especially as regards training in co-operatives, modern agricultural and technical methods, vocational training, the use of modern labour-saving devices in homes and modern methods of child-rearing;

(j) Eliminating illiteracy and ensuring equality of educational opportunities at all levels (including vocational training) and the same choice of curricula for male and female students, preferably in the same schools for boys and girls;

(k) Actively encouraging women to train for and enter non-traditional occupations, providing proper guidance and counselling and expanding co-operative programmes among women of different countries that would contribute to international understanding through shared endeavours;

(l) Providing training (including in-service training) for women in all fields, including citizenship and leadership, consumerism, management, and science and technology, keeping in mind the concomitant need to help find employment opportunities for women who complete the training period;

(m) Giving effect, in planning national and international programmes, to the conclusions of the report of the Special Rapporteur on the interrelationship of the status of women and family planning (E/CN.6/585 and Corr.1 and Add.1)

and also to any recommendations which may be made by the World Population Conference in 1974;

(n) Providing social services, (including health, family planning, child care, social and community services) and farm and home extension services;

(o) Developing and extending a network of health services for the protection of maternity and of the health of the mother and child;

(p) Seeking to improve the situation of women in prisons and other places of detention;

(q) Combating racism and racial discrimination whenever and wherever it manifests itself, and lending support to the victims of racism, apartheid and colonialism as well as supporting women and children in armed struggle including the struggle for independence and self-determination;

(r) Combating exploitation of women and girls through illicit and clandestine trafficking;

C. Peace

(s) Promoting the peace efforts of women's groups and other national and international organizations and encouraging on the part of all women of the world, the promotion of détente in the world, international peace and co-operation among States, through contributions to such measures as:

(i) Combating colonialism, neo-colonialism, foreign domination and alien subjugation, apartheid and racial discrimination;

(ii) The realization of the principle of the right of people to self-determination;

(iii) Dissemination of information concerning the United Nations Charter and activities as well as the principles of international law;

(t) Participation of women in safeguarding peace which would promote economic, social, cultural and political conditions that contribute to the advancement of the status of women and men;

(u) Developing and implementing international standards and other actions to encourage peaceful relations among States on the basis of the principles of the United Nations Charter, relevant United Nations resolutions, as well as international law;

(v) Facilitating the free flow of information and ideas among countries, having due regard for their sovereignty and non-intervention in their domestic affairs, on the contribution of women as well as men to peace and to the promotion of friendly relations among States and to peace, and promoting the exchange of visits by women of different countries to study common problems;

(w) Recognizing the value, for the country's over-all development and

advancement, of the untapped resources of women to contribute to the national culture, development and spiritual values through their work in voluntary activities as well as in the labour market and home management.

III. ACTIVITIES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

A. Special acts of commemoration

9. An inaugural statement might launch this International Year. In order to emphasize the importance of the Year, it should be proclaimed in each State:

- (a) By the highest official authority;
- (b) By appropriate local officials;
- (c) By men and women leaders in all fields.

B. National programmes, targets and priorities

10. Specific targets should be established to be achieved by 1980 and 1985 for the attainment of the objectives of the Year set forth above (for this purpose the Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade and the objectives and targets set forth in the programme of concerted international action for the advancement of women should also be studied) (General Assembly resolutions 2626 (XXV) of 19 November 1970, and 2716 (XXV) of 15 December 1970):

(a) Machinery and procedures should be set up for the continuous review and evaluation of women's integration into all sectors of economic and social life at all levels;

(b) Short-term and long-term programmes and priorities should be adopted with adequately funded programmes to achieve the targets and to improve the condition of women and ensure their integration in the total development effort.

In particular it is recommended that each country should adopt at least one long-term constructive programme based on part II ("Objectives and goals"), section B ("Development"), above.

11. Nation-wide initiatives from non-governmental groups (e.g. organizations in business, industry and civic life, professional organizations, labour unions, educational institutions, student associations, mass communication media etc.) should be enlisted in order, for example:

- (a) To help to bring progress in the area of women's rights and responsibilities;
- (b) To increase participation in and support for the national and international women's movements;
- (c) To work towards promoting a full partnership between men and women.

C. National commissions or similar bodies

12. A national commission, or similar body, if it does not already exist, could be established (and, where appropriate, local commissions or committees) with a mandate to review, evaluate and recommend measures and priorities to ensure equality between men and women and the full integration of women in all sectors of national life. Wherever possible such bodies should be composed of both men and women and include governmental and non-governmental representatives.

13. Under the commission, or similar body, sub-commissions or working groups could undertake fact-finding and comprehensive studies, paying special attention to the needs and problems of women in both rural and urban areas.

D. Special counselling offices

14. A network of special counselling offices could be established to advise women about their rights and obligations and their participation in development, with competence also to deal with complaints regarding infringements of women's rights and to make legal aid available when required.

E. Publicity and educational measures

15. Programmes of publicity and promotion should be conducted in both urban and rural areas, emphasizing the three objectives of the Year and the particular constructive programme adopted by such means as:

- (a) Pamphlets, posters and paid advertising;
- (b) Commemorative postage stamps, calendars, first-day covers and cancellations;
- (c) Commemorative publications;
- (d) Spot statements on radio and television;
- (e) Revised textbooks replacing traditional stereotyped images of men and women by new concepts;
- (f) Radio and television talks and forums, including those focusing on the activities of women from all walks of life, whether or not they have achieved prominence;
- (g) Free time for United Nations programmes on national radio and television networks;
- (h) Films and film festivals;
- (i) Exhibitions featuring artistic and cultural works, especially by women;
- (j) Organization of contests (e.g., essay and speech contests, painting and poster contests, quiz programmes and public debates);

- (k) Awards honouring achievements by women in specific fields;
 - (l) Awards honouring outstanding contributions of women and men to the threefold objectives of the Year;
 - (m) Sports events and competitions;
 - (n) Mass distribution in national and local languages to schools and the general public of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and other related international instruments.
16. Schools, colleges and universities should be encouraged to establish programmes for teaching and research in questions related to the promotion of equality of men and women and the elimination of discrimination and prejudice against women and the contributions of women to society should be stressed.
17. Material (including audio-visual material) c/ should be prepared dealing with women's rights, responsibilities and the causes of prejudice and discrimination against women, together with ways of overcoming it, for use by:
- (a) Students and teachers in primary and secondary schools and institutions of higher learning (students might be encouraged to study the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in relation to local customs, traditions and practices, and to consider its application to them in their everyday lives);
 - (b) Employers, workers and trade unionists;
 - (c) Community groups and voluntary organizations.
18. Attention should be given to the establishment, where it is considered to be appropriate, of women's history centres, which would gather and make available records of the development of the status of women on a national and international basis and would preserve the papers and other records relating to this subject.
19. Educational programmes should be developed to inform women of their legal rights and of the means available for securing their enforcement.
20. Programmes should be developed to aid the upward mobility of women through education, to provide counselling and guidance on educational and employment opportunities, geared particularly to women who plan to resume their education or job-training after an absence of years from active participation, and to expand retraining programmes for women who wish to re-enter the labour force.
21. Other programmes should be developed:
- (a) To promote equal participation of women and men in the labour union movement and the access to positions of leadership for women within the unions;

c/ A list of relevant United Nations material and where it may be obtained will subsequently be issued as document E/CN.6/590.

(b) To provide seminars and workshops to prepare women for participation in politics at local, state, national and international levels;

(c) To offer executive leadership and management training opportunities for women.

F. Studies and surveys

22. Studies and surveys are needed on all aspects of the status of women, both in law and in practice and on the changing roles of men and women in society and in the family. A list of suggested fields of study appears in appendix I below.

23. The following broad areas merit special attention:

(a) Inquiries into customs, traditions, practices and attitudes which impede or promote the exercise of equal rights of men and women, and which constrain or increase women's contribution to development;

(b) The assessment and evaluation of women's current and potential contribution to the various sectors in relation to the country's over-all development plans and programmes;

(c) The interrelationship of the condition of women, population change, and over-all development;

(d) Extent of women's participation in the labour force and their position within it and in trade union organizations. Special attention should also be given to the agricultural and service sectors of the economy and the question of co-operatives;

(e) Influence of scientific and technological developments on the position of women and their integration in the development effort.

G. National conferences and other meetings

24. National governmental and non-governmental conferences, seminars, training courses and other types of meetings should be convened during the Year to discuss the attainment of the three main objectives or particular aspects of these objectives and establish short-term and long-term programmes. Governments should place a greater number of qualified women on national delegations to international conferences, United Nations sessions and meetings, and other international meetings dealing with problems of major national concern. The Secretary-General should remind Governments of the need for steadily increasing such participation by women.

H. Exchange programmes

25. Exchange programmes (e.g., visits, fellowships, lecture tours and discussion groups) for both men and women should be organized to study common problems, in particular, the number of scholarships granted to women and girls should be increased in 1975 and women should be appointed in greater numbers as

members of delegations to seminars, congresses etc., at both the international and the national levels.

26. The activities of women's organizations for improving the conditions of life and future prospects for women and for contributing to the development of friendly relations and co-operation among nations and peace should be developed and strengthened by increasing co-operation and exchange between them, and giving their efforts and achievements wider publicity and support by Governments and the general public.

I. Ratification and implementation of international instruments

27. Every effort should be made by Governments which have not already done so to ratify all existing international instruments relating to women's rights during the Year, and to implement fully their provisions.

IV. ACTIVITIES AT THE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS

28. Proclamations and/or statements inaugurating the Year should be issued

- (a) by the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the specialized agencies;
- (b) by the resident representatives of the United Nations Development Programme;
- (c) by executive heads of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

29. As a focal point of the international observance of the Year, an international conference should be organized.

30. An appeal should be made to Governments of countries in the different regions to establish regional commissions on the status of women and to organize within existing intergovernmental and other similar organizations, programmes for women aimed at their full integration in national and regional development which would:

- (a) Place special emphasis on relieving the burdens and increasing the economic output of rural women engaged in agriculture, on providing facilities for food preservation and processing, child care and also on providing co-operative education;

- (b) Co-operate with interested United Nations bodies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, particularly with the Commission on the Status of Women;

- (c) Provide in industrialized areas advice and services aimed at improving working conditions, family life and participation in all aspects of regional development.

31. Regional meetings could be organized by the United Nations and the specialized agencies, wherever possible in conjunction with the regional economic commissions.

32. Items relating to the three main objectives of the Year should be included in the agenda of the General Assembly at its thirtieth session, in 1975, and of the general conferences, assemblies or similar meetings of the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies.

33. All organs responsible for the mid-term review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, which is to take place in 1975 should be requested to pay special attention to the integration of women in the total development effort.

34. The regional intergovernmental organizations, regional economic commissions and specialized agencies should establish appropriate programmes and commissions or offices to deal with questions of equality of men and women and the integration of women in development (the action taken by the Economic Commission for Africa might provide an example useful for other regions). Their activities should be co-ordinated at the international level and brought to the attention of the Commission on the Status of Women.

35. Every effort should be made to further during the Year the elaboration of a new international convention dealing with the elimination of discrimination against women.

36. All necessary measures should be taken to adopt a declaration on the protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence.

37. Publicity and educational measures, studies and surveys, conferences and other meetings and exchange programmes similar to those proposed on the national level could be developed regionally and internationally.

38. The Office of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat should produce material about the life and problems of women in developing countries - to be used for information in the developed countries - and about the ways and means of action, which have proved to be useful in promoting the status of women.

39. Particular attention should be given to:

(a) The issue of an international symbol for the Year;

(b) Preparation in advance of the Year of pamphlets, posters and publications;

(c) Issuance of a United Nations stamp, first-day cover and cancellations;

(d) Radio and television programmes to be given simultaneously in the capitals of Member States;

(e) Films and film festivals;

(f) International exhibitions featuring artistic and cultural works especially by women;

(g) International awards honouring achievements by women in specific fields;

(h) Mass distribution in all available languages through the United Nations Information Centres of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and related international instruments.

Secretariats of the organizations in the United Nations system

40. Organizations in the United Nations system should set an example by:
- (a) eliminating from their own staff regulations and administrative procedures any provisions or practices which may be discriminatory against women;
 - (b) organizing more extensive training and refresher courses for staff members;
 - (c) associating interested staff members in the implementation of the International Women's Year programmes;
 - (d) preparing a report for consideration by Governments on what has been done by the United Nations Secretariat and the specialized agencies to improve the status of women since the establishment of the Commission on the Status of Women in 1946.
41. Every effort should be made to render assistance and give support at the regional and international levels to national programmes and activities organized as part of the observance of the Year.
42. A report should be prepared for consideration by the Commission on the Status of Women describing and evaluating activities undertaken during the Year by Governments, United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations.

Appendix I

TOPICS FOR RESEARCH, STUDY, SEMINARS AND SIMILAR TYPES OF MEETINGS

- (a) The conditioning of children to role playing: is the idea of the traditional father figure becoming an obsolete concept? Are a woman's capabilities for learning and performance influenced by her biological make-up?
- (b) The obstacles to the integration of women in economic and social life and to their full participation in economic and social development.
- (c) The image of women at various times and in different cultures and the history of their struggle for emancipation.
- (d) The image of women in textbooks: is there suppression of facts, distortions about their rights and responsibilities, ignorance of their historical achievements, presentation of their role in family life etc.?
- (e) The image of women in the mass media (press, radio, films, television) and its use in advertising.
- (f) Attitudes of men and women towards their respective roles in the family and in society.
- (g) The origin, motivations and claims of the contemporary women's movements.
- (h) Survey of welfare services in such fields as child care and domestic work.
- (i) The responsibilities of both parents in the upbringing of children and in family life.
- (j) Cross-cultural studies of male and female social roles defined according to sex.
- (k) Comparative studies on the content and impact of differing preparation of men and women in fulfilling social roles needed for development.
- (l) Comparative studies on the sociological and psychological stresses and conflicts which arise when women (and men) assume new roles in society at various levels.
- (m) In-depth case studies of involvement of women in development as perceived by women, by men and by other groups, such as adolescents or community elders.
- (n) Comparative studies of time use by men, women, children and the family as a unit, in their everyday living patterns.
- (o) Studies of communication patterns within the family, between adult members and between adults and children.

(p) Studies on women's role as an important component of local, national or regional interdisciplinary research.

(q) Studies on the role and contribution of women for the improvement of health and safety conditions for workers in rural and urban areas.

(r) Studies on the enactment of legal, administrative and social measures and the provision of social welfare services for the effective protection of migrant workers, their families and especially young women.

(s) Comparative studies on several subjects of family and international private law relating to the status of women and children.

(t) Comparative studies at the regional level on certain subjects related to the adoption of new legislative measures for such purposes as the protection of the working mothers, the creation of equal opportunities of work and equal pay for equal work.

(u) The role of women and their contribution during the proclaimed Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

(v) Student workshops should be organized at the national level for the teaching of international law, with particular reference to topics related to the United Nations Charter, the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Universal Declaration and the Covenants on Human Rights, as well as the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

(w) Studies on women's contribution in all fields of labour.

Appendix II

RELEVANT HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS a/

- Recommendation concerning night work of women in agriculture (1921)
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)
- Convention concerning Night Work of Women Employed in Industry (revised in 1948)
- Convention concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize (came into force in 1950)
- Convention concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value (1951)
- Convention concerning the Application of the Principles of the Right to Organize and to Bargain Collectively (came into force in 1951)
- Convention on the Political Rights of Women (1952)
- Convention concerning Maternity Protection (revised in 1952)
- Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (1954)
- Recommendation concerning minimum standards of social security (1956)
- Convention on the Nationality of Married Women (1957)
- Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (1958)
- Recommendation concerning occupational health services in places of employment (1959)
- Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (1960)
- Convention against Discrimination in Education (1960)
- Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (1961)
- Protocol instituting a Conciliation and Good Offices Commission to be responsible for seeking a settlement of any disputes which may arise between States Parties to the Convention against Discrimination in Education (1962)
- Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages (1962)
- Recommendation concerning vocational training (1962)
- United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1963)
- Recommendation on consent to marriage, minimum age for marriage and registration of marriages (1965)
- Recommendation concerning the employment of women with family responsibilities (1965)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966)

a/ The year appearing in parentheses after each title is the year of adoption.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Optional Protocol (1966)
Declaration of the Principles of International Cultural Co-operation (1966)
Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (1967)
Convention concerning the Maximum Permissible Weight to be Carried by One
Worker (1967)
Proclamation of Teheran (1968)
Declaration on Social Progress and Development (1969)