



Chairman: Mr. Carlos GIAMBRUNO
(Uruguay).

AGENDA ITEM 12

Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapters XII (section H), XIII, XIV (sections A and C), XV (sections A and D) and XVII to XIX] (continued) (A/8703, A/C.3/L.1964, A/C.3/L.1965/Rev.1, A/C.3/L.1966, A/C.3/L.1967/Rev.1, Economic and Social Council resolutions 1676 (LII) and 1681 (LII))

GENERAL DEBATE (*continued*) and CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS (*continued*)

1. Begum SULEMAN (Pakistan) said that everywhere in the world, women were playing a most important role in social welfare, politics, law, education and medicine and in the scientific and technical fields. In view of the valuable contribution of women to economic and social development in their countries and in the international community, men had been forced to accept the challenge of their participation.
2. In Pakistan, women had equal opportunities with men in the fields she had mentioned. Islam, the religion of Pakistan, placed men and women on an equal footing. Since the birth of Pakistan as an independent nation, the right of women to vote and to participate in political life had been recognized. Today, there were many women members of the national and provincial assemblies, and there had been several women ambassadors; in 1965 a woman had been a candidate for President of the Republic. An order had recently been issued making women eligible for any post in the civil service. In view of the fact that Pakistan was a developing country with a population of 65 million, it had not been an easy task to provide education for all children, especially for those that had been underprivileged. The Government's main aim was now the eradication of illiteracy. The new education reform which provided for universal and free education up to high school level, would be implemented over 12 years in two phases. As a result both girls and boys would have better opportunities to contribute to national and international development.
3. Turning to the question of unmarried mothers, she agreed with the representative of Morocco (see 1946th meeting) that to legalize illegal births would in the end be harmful to the society. In Pakistan the problem was of minor importance and it was believed that the accent should be on preventing the illegal acts rather than accepting them. Unfortunately, women's involvement with affairs outside the home was taking them away from their children, who needed their care and protection. The Declaration of the Rights of the Child, adopted by the United Nations in 1959, which affirmed that mankind owed to the child the best it had to give must not be disregarded.
4. She supported the amendment submitted by India in document A/C.3/L.1967/Rev.1 to add two paragraphs to the operative part of the draft recommended in Economic and Social Council resolution 1681 (LII) concerning International Women's Year. She was strongly in favour of urging all States to ratify as soon as possible ILO Convention No. 100 concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value; the equal benefits to be granted to women should include those that were now exclusively provided for men, so as to promote real equality between men and women and remove the existing discrimination.
5. She supported Economic and Social Council resolution 1687 (LII) on protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict, and she urged the Committee to approve the draft recommended in resolution 1676 (LII) on the employment of women in senior and other professional positions by secretariats of the organizations of the United Nations system.
6. Mr. GHACHEM (Tunisia) said that the Commission on the Status of Women was doing most valuable work. The problem of the liberation of women was extremely important, for which reason Tunisia had spared no effort to emancipate women. As soon as it had become independent, Tunisia had adopted various laws granting fundamental rights to women which enabled them to live decently: women had been granted the right to vote, polygamy had been abolished, a wife could no longer be repudiated by her husband, and a procedure had been laid down for divorce. In education, women had the same rights as men; as a result, there were many co-educational schools and some vocational training schools have been established exclusively to raise the cultural level of women; programmes for the eradication of illiteracy had been started in Tunisia and teaching centres had been installed in the rural areas in which many women were active.
7. But the problems of the status of women were often connected with the problem of children: women must be freed of the heavy burden of bearing too many children. For that purpose, a programme of family planning had been initiated in Tunisia which was mainly

in the hands of women. In 1961, a law had been enacted authorizing the sale and use of contraceptives, and in 1965 another law had been passed permitting abortion during the first three months of pregnancy if both spouses had more than five living children and if the pregnancy was a danger to the health of the mother. Abortions could be carried out only in authorized hospitals and clinics. From 1956 onwards the mother and child health services had been considerably expanded. Many nurseries and kindergartens had been established to enable mothers to engage in gainful occupation and to enable their children to receive appropriate training.

8. The participation of women in the political life of Tunisia was a comparatively recent phenomenon. Besides the many women who did agricultural and craft work, it was estimated that about 70,000 were employed in other sectors, including municipal advisors and members of Parliament. As to the principle of equal pay for equal work, steps had been taken in Tunisia which would eventually ensure achievement of that goal. Tunisia had ratified the ILO Convention on that subject two years before.

9. From what he had already said it was clear that Tunisia was fully aware of the problem and was ready to co-operate to the best of its ability in the work of the Commission on the Status of Women with the aim of achieving full implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

10. He shared the views expressed by the Commission on the Status of Women regarding the problem of the unmarried mother; it was necessary not only to eliminate discrimination in that field, but also to enable the unmarried mother to take advantage of the assistance and social security measures available to women in general, as well as those particularly for unmarried mothers. The principal aim was to integrate the unmarried mother and her child in all sectors of society.

11. His delegation supported the draft resolutions contained in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1676 (LII) and 1681 (LII).

12. Mr. GOLOVKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the most recent sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council had shown that the international community was fully aware of the need to eliminate discrimination against women, thus enabling them to achieve equal rights with men. The work done by the Commission had been realistic, since it had not wasted time on academic discussion but had adopted useful resolutions and draft resolutions such as, for instance, draft resolution XIII¹ on the protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence.

13. Turning to the other Economic and Social Council resolutions which the Committee had before it, he said

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 6, chap. IX.*

that he attached the greatest importance to the draft text in resolution 1681 (LII) on International Women's Year; he trusted that the proposal it contained would be approved and that International Women's Year would provide an appropriate setting for measures against discrimination. As was well known, there was no such problem in the Ukrainian SSR, where the rights of women were guaranteed by the Constitution and by the relevant laws. For that reason, International Women's Year would have a slightly different character in his country: it would be devoted to showing the progress of women in all spheres of social, economic, scientific, cultural and technical life. December 1972 would mark the fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. In those 50 years, Soviet women had made great strides, leaving illiteracy and the subordinate position in which they had lived up to then far behind them and taking an active part in the building of the new society. One indication of the important function of women in Soviet society was reflected in the institution of Women's Day, which was celebrated on 8 March as a tribute to the great role of women in society. The relevant statistics for 1971 showed that women accounted for 51 per cent of the whole labour force and for 45 per cent of the workers employed in commerce and activities connected with food supply. The proportion of women was even greater in teaching and medicine. Women were now working in fields which had once been reserved exclusively for men. For instance, they were scaling new heights in the world of science and technology—in the field of electronics and the manufacture of precision instruments, for instance. Their participation in politics was also very active. Thirty-five per cent of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR were women. It was to be hoped that International Women's Year would enable them to strengthen their position and increase the role of women in those countries where they were still struggling for equality in the social and economic spheres.

14. Turning to the draft text in resolution 1676 (LII) on the employment of women in senior and other professional positions by the secretariats of the organizations of the United Nations system, he expressed the view that there should be more women in senior posts in the United Nations Secretariat; he therefore supported that draft resolution. Nevertheless he wished to point out that as far as his own country was concerned the procedures for the appointment of women to an organization of the United Nations system were different from those laid down in paragraph 3 of the draft resolution, where "more extensive publicizing of the right of individuals personally to apply for vacant positions" was mentioned.

15. Mr. ELEIH ELLÉ (Cameroon) said that in the traditional societies of Africa, contrary to certain gratuitous claims, women were held in the greatest esteem. Women had always taken an active part in the processes of production and economic development in those societies. Women who fished, gathered food and fire-wood or prepared meals were engaged in a process of transformation and production which made them genuine heroines of civilization, organizing

the habitable world and revealing the secrets of nature. Moreover, in their role as mothers women had the responsibility of caring for their children and giving them their earliest education. Thus in their dual role as fellow workers and mothers, African women had always held a place of great honour in society.

16. Furthermore, African women had always enjoyed the status of full citizenship in their communities and societies. One might ask whether the modern era had changed that state of affairs and whether African women today were the victims of any form of domination, exploitation or discrimination. As far as Cameroon was concerned, the answer would be emphatically in the negative. The Constitution, laws and administrative regulations in force in Cameroon guaranteed the equality of all citizens before the law without any restriction whatsoever. At the political level, Cameroonian women were entitled to vote and hold office on a footing of equality with men. Moreover, in Cameroon women had their own forum, the Women's Organization of the Cameroonian National Union, where they could bring up and resolve problems that concerned them. Similarly, in the field of employment, they were given all opportunities in accordance with their ability. In the rural areas there was no unemployment, and all that was wanting was that women should familiarize themselves with modern methods of production and become even more integrated into the process of scientific progress. In that regard, it should be pointed out that the Women's Organization was mounting an educational campaign through various means, with apparently encouraging results. In the urban areas women had access to all sectors of the country's activities. Suffice it to note that there was a woman in the Government and that women were to be found in all occupations.

17. Cameroon's approach to development was one of planned liberalism, which meant that the State intervened in economic and social development, but without taking the place of private initiative. It went without saying that there were no legislative provisions which could be regarded as discriminating against women. On the contrary, the State endeavoured to create conditions in which women could realize their potential in all fields. In keeping with that policy, it had not been deemed necessary thus far to adopt legislation on the questions of polygamy or the bride price, institutions which the ill-informed had held to be a manifestation of fundamental inequality between women and men. In Cameroon the policy was to leave those matters to the individual to decide, for neither polygamy nor the institution of the bride price detracted from the dignity of women.

18. The liberation which Cameroonian women were demanding was that of their brothers and sisters who were still suffering under the yoke of Portuguese colonialism, the liberation of the millions of human beings who were deprived of all fundamental rights and freedoms by the rebel régime of Ian Smith and that of Vorster. For themselves and for all the men and women of the third world, the women of Cameroon wanted to put an end to ignorance, hunger, sickness—in a

word, under-development. What Cameroonian women wanted was peace and justice from Saigon to Jerusalem and from Johannesburg to Bissau.

19. Although it could not be said that there was any problem of women's emancipation in Cameroon, his delegation, with a view to remedying any shortcomings which might still manifest themselves, would support any positive measure with regard to that question.

20. Miss MENESES (Venezuela) said that Venezuela had always taken a great interest in the efforts of the United Nations to abolish capital punishment. In its view, the abolition of capital punishment would be the final affirmation of the right of everyone to life, which constituted the foundation of all other rights. Accordingly, Venezuela had supported all initiatives aimed at abolishing or limiting the application of capital punishment. In Venezuela, the death penalty had been absolutely prohibited since 1864 and the inviolability of the right to life was enshrined in article 58 of the Constitution. In the circumstances, her delegation was pleased to note that progress had been made in many countries with regard to the abolition of the death penalty and, while realizing that in some places there were difficulties which stood in the way of abolition, it hoped that conditions would gradually be created in which that humanitarian aim could be attained, for the death penalty was useless and unjustified. For all those reasons, her delegation would support draft resolution A/C.3/L.1964 and it urged the members of the Committee to consider it favourably.

21. With regard to the work of the Commission on the Status of Women, she recalled that to the fifty-third session of the International Labour Conference in his report the Director-General of the ILO had indicated that a third of the world's work force would be composed of working women in the decade 1970-1980.² Given the importance of the role they would thus be required to play in the process of development, it was essential that women should be given training. In Venezuela the status of women had been constantly evolving since 1936. Under the Constitution all Venezuelans were equal before the law and all had the same rights. The Law of Work laid down a special régime for working women governing working days, maternity leave and the like. The Penal Code further provided for preferential treatment with regard to the sentencing of pregnant women. Nevertheless, certain inequalities unfortunately persisted, owing to the fact that some Venezuelan laws had been adopted in circumstances where no women at all had been present. For example, parental authority should be entrusted to the more qualified of the spouses; wives should be entitled to share in the administration of community property; and adultery as grounds for divorce should be taken into account equally for men and for women. Moreover, although women had the legal right to occupy the same place in society as men, the fact was that because of outmoded customs women still held very few key posts.

² International Labour Organisation, *World Employment Programme* (International Labour Office, Geneva, 1969), p. 26.

22. For all those reasons, her delegation would support the draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1676 (LII) on the employment of women in senior and other professional positions by the secretariats of organizations in the United Nations system. It would also support the draft resolution recommended in Council resolution 1681 (LII), despite the fact that it was not in favour of the proclamation of so many international years, as it considered that the efforts of the international community should be progressive and continuous and that in the matter at issue only a systematic campaign would be successful in remedying problems such as those to which she had referred. However, the expression "equality of men and women" in the fourth preambular paragraph and the expression "equality between men and women" in operative paragraph 2 of the latter draft resolution seemed to be deficient; she would prefer to say "equality of rights as between men and women".

23. In conclusion, referring to the status of the unmarried mother, she regretted that she could not agree with those delegations which had expressed reservations concerning the effect that might be produced by efforts to improve the situation of such women. In her view, it was a question of recognizing an existing situation and protecting the unmarried mother and her child so as not to have frustrated individuals in society.

24. Mrs. TALBOT (Guyana) said that she intended to support the draft resolutions recommended by the Economic and Social Council, in its resolutions 1676 (LII) and 1681 (LII), as well as the amendment to the former contained in document A/C.3/L.1965/Rev.1. With regard to the matter dealt with in resolution 1676 (LII) she wished to congratulate the Assistant Secretary-General for Social and Humanitarian Matters on her recent appointment and also the Secretary-General for having made it possible for women to be appointed as high-level officials of the United Nations. In that connexion, she recalled that during her term of office as Minister of Health of Guyana the first woman country representative to the Pan-American Health Organization had been appointed.

25. With regard to the draft recommended in resolution 1681 (LII), she had certain reservations about the value of international years. If those years served to facilitate the attainment of specific goals or to initiate or intensify measures to deal with problems effectively, their existence could be justified; however, many of them were of little use. Accordingly, she hoped that the activities proposed in the draft recommended in resolution 1681 (LII) would not be postponed until 1975 nor be terminated at the end of that year. In that regard, she recalled that on various occasions during the debate pleas had been made for preferential treatment for women to make up for the injustices of the past. Her immediate reaction to that proposal was that such a criterion could apply to any group that had been unjustly treated in any society, and above all to those countries which had a history of injustice. Although the question under consideration dealt specifically with women's rights, the Committee should take an interest in the rights of all persons who had been discriminated against.

26. Guyana endeavoured to use its human resources wisely, for it believed that its very survival as a nation depended on that policy; thus, a special effort was made to select women with appropriate qualifications for positions of leadership in the Government and in other sectors. Women had served as ministers and in Parliament since the country had achieved self-government. Needless to say, education and training were of the utmost importance in preparing women to accept responsibilities for local, regional and national development. She therefore noted with satisfaction that the draft resolution urged increased participation by women in development. She cautioned, however, that that would require changes in attitudes within societies.

27. Mrs. CABALLERO (Mexico) said that her delegation attached great importance to the question of the status of women. Although progress had unquestionably been made in promoting equality of rights and dignity as between men and women, and although justice presupposed equal treatment for both sexes, women were still in a disadvantageous position as compared to men. That was basically attributable to two factors: the patriarchal tradition which still carried weight in most societies and which could only gradually be changed to the point where women would have equality with men in eligibility for posts of the highest responsibility; and the education that women received, which on the whole was inferior to that provided for men. For those reasons, if women were to be equal not only in law but also in fact, it was imperative that they should have an opportunity to become educated and qualified. Moreover, they must be willing to make the effort required for that purpose, since it was not enough simply to claim rights; one must also be equipped to exercise those rights fully. Women throughout the world should be aware that the rights given to them by laws also implied obligations towards society which they must fulfil. It was especially important that educated women should realize how much they could and should give their countries and abandon the traditional convenient attitude which placed all the responsibility on men. In the world of the future where women would without question have an increasingly relevant role to play and hence greater responsibility, men and women would understand that their respective endeavours were not competitive but were interrelated; women, whether at work or in the home or society, would recognize that men were the best of companions and the ideal helpmates.

28. Women could and should attain the full dignity to which human beings were entitled and they could and should co-operate in creating a world characterized by greater well-being, goodwill and peace, in raising the cultural and economic levels of their families and countries, and in working to increase the material and spiritual riches of all, without at the same time renouncing any of the privileges and rights which were traditionally theirs, as women, especially in the home, as wives and mothers. The aim was not to supplant men, but to raise women's status, while retaining all the attributes inherent in their femininity.

29. For the reasons stated, her delegation would vote in favour of the draft texts which the Economic and Social Council had submitted in its resolutions 1676 (LII) and 1681 (LII) for consideration by the General Assembly; it would always be ready to support any measures to be taken at the international level for the advancement of women.

30. Miss ZALDÍVAR (Philippines) noted that at the twenty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women her delegation had voted in favour of draft resolution I¹ concerning the employment of women in senior and professional positions by the secretariats of organizations in the United Nations system; similarly, it had voted at the fifty-second session of the Economic and Social Council in favour of resolution 1676 (LII) and would vote in the Committee in favour of the text recommended in that resolution. At the same time, she appreciated the initiative taken by the delegation of Canada (see A/C.3/L.1965/Rev.1) in seeking to update some of the information contained in that draft, thereby improving the text. While the draft recommended in resolution 1676 (LII) made the Secretary-General responsible, as the final appointing authority, for the employment of women in senior and professional positions in the United Nations system, it did not overlook the responsibility of Member States in ensuring that their nominations of candidates for United Nations positions included qualified women.

31. She would vote in favour of the draft recommended in resolution 1681 (LII), proclaiming 1975 as International Women's Year, in line with the position taken by her delegation in the Commission on the Status of Women and in the Economic and Social Council. That draft resolution was a valid and useful one, since the proposed Year would bring into focus not only the achievements of women and for women, but also problems peculiar to women which were still awaiting national and international solutions. International Women's Year could help stimulate the adoption of further social and legislative measures for the advancement of the status of women. She recalled in that connexion the positive results which had followed the proclamation by the United Nations, in the past, of other international years. She would likewise have no difficulty supporting the amendment in document A/C.3/L.1966, but considered on the other hand that the amendments in document A/C.3/L.1967/Rev.1 merely reiterated the idea of promoting equality between men and women, which was already incorporated in the draft resolution in its existing form. However, she wished to assure the sponsors of those amendments that she fully agreed with the criteria which had inspired their proposals and hoped that they would be incorporated in the draft programme for the celebration of International Women's Year.

32. Finally, as the representative of the United States had pointed out (1944th meeting), she found it regrettable that, with the exception of the Third Committee, women were so sparsely represented in the Main Committees of the General Assembly. She therefore ventured to suggest to the Commission on the Status of Women that, in addition to urging the Secretary-

General to increase the number of women appointed to senior positions in the United Nations system, it might also urge Member States to increase the proportion of women in their delegations to the General Assembly, particularly in 1975 to coincide with the observance of International Women's Year. She hoped that the Commission would keep her suggestion in mind when it met for its twenty-fifth session in 1974.

33. Mrs. WANJUI (Kenya) said that, thanks to the Charter and the efforts of the United Nations in general, women in developing countries were gaining access to all types of occupations and that the question continued to be of concern in those countries. Many of the disadvantages suffered by women in developing countries were due not only to their traditions and cultural backgrounds but also to the fact that the colonialists had taken no effective steps to improve the position of women. Thus when those countries had attained independence they had inherited inequitable situations which had apparently favoured men. However, that was only a passing phase of development.

34. In Kenya, laws and policies provided for the education of men, women and children without distinction, in order to prepare them to play an effective role in Kenyan society economically and culturally and to train them in the exercise of independent judgement with respect to civil and political rights. To achieve that goal the Government of Kenya, since the attainment of independence, had appointed women to positions in the public administration, the judiciary, the civil service, medicine, the economy and the administration of schools and to positions of professors and lecturers in universities. Prior to independence, if there had been women in those positions, they had not been indigenous women.

35. If specific problems relating to women were to be tackled properly, it was crucial that the role of women should be seen within the context of each country. Yet a review of the items dealt with by the Commission on the Status of Women showed an imbalance in the importance given to the various questions within the framework of the over-all problems of women in society; that imbalance had resulted from the practice of assuming that the problems of particular regions were universal. To avoid that tendency the Commission, in conjunction with advisory services on human rights, should make more use of regional seminars in examining regional problems. In that regard, the recent seminars in Africa were a welcome innovation. Through such seminars the Commission would have a lasting and relevant impact on the social, economic, cultural and political evolution of society.

36. She was pleased at the recent appointment of a woman to the post of Assistant Secretary-General for Social and Humanitarian Matters, which demonstrated the Secretary-General's interest in promoting the cause of the advancement of women; she hoped that the number of women in the Organization would increase substantially during the Second United Nations Development Decade. In that connexion, she sup-

ported the draft resolution recommended in Economic and Social Council resolution 1676 (LII).

37. Finally, she stressed that, once they had obtained equal rights, women must adopt an aggressive attitude in order to have those rights realized.

38. Mr. MAROOFI (Afghanistan) noted that women made up approximately half of the world's population and as such represented half of the world's human potential; yet their great capacity had remained virtually untapped. For the creation of a better world, it was essential that women should be given the exercise of their political, social and economic rights, to enable them actively to participate in the development of society and to be integrated into the work of advancing the spiritual and material progress of their community. The great advance made in the field of science and technology proclaimed the advent of a new civilization in which women could no longer be expected to remain outside the decision-making bodies that determined the social, economic and cultural structures of societies.

39. His delegation had always supported measures aimed at promoting the status of women, nationally and internationally, and would continue to support any measures aimed at their advancement. However, mere recognition of the rights of women was not sufficient; what was important was that the proposed measures should be implemented. The Constitution of Afghanistan recognized the full and equal rights of women, including their political rights, and several women were members of the House of Representatives and the Senate. Moreover, women had secured high governmental positions and some had become cabinet ministers. The Supreme Court had appointed several women as judges of the Juvenile Courts in Kabul and in the provinces. Furthermore, Afghanistan had been represented by women in the Third Committee and at international conferences.

40. In Afghanistan education had been an important factor in promoting the status of women and Afghan women were becoming increasingly aware of their political and social rights. Another important consideration had been the care of the child of the working mother and the Women's Welfare Organization of Afghanistan had set up child-care centres in Kabul and in various provinces to supervise and care for those children. Similarly, family planning in Afghanistan was primarily aimed at the betterment of the health of mother and child, thus raising the standard of living of society. The Afghan Family Guidance Association, a non-governmental autonomous organization, had the full support of the Government in its activities. The Government planned to integrate family planning into the network of Government health services, in whose programmes women were very much involved at the policy-making level. However, that was a field in which international co-operation and guidance were essential.

41. With reference to the draft texts recommended in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1676 (LII) and 1681 (LII), his delegation would not hesitate to support them. However, it wished to reserve its right

to make comments in due course in connexion with the programme for International Women's Year.

42. Mrs. IDER (Mongolia) said that the twenty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women had been a fruitful one: it had considered important problems like the protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict, the question of preparing an international instrument or instruments relating to women, the application of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and others. The question of the protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict, in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence was of particular interest to Mongolia. Her delegation supported the suggestion that a draft declaration be prepared on the protection of women and children in periods of armed conflict and in occupied territories, and it did not share the view of other delegations that the preparation of such a draft would duplicate the work of other United Nations bodies, since it would be concerned specifically with the protection of women and children. For that reason, her delegation suggested that the highest priority should be given to that topic in the future work of the Commission. It was her delegation's opinion that a convention should be prepared, combining all the useful elements of existing international instruments, which would be made binding on all States that ratified and acceded to it.

43. Mongolia would give its total support to the draft recommended in Council resolution 1681 (LII) on the designation of 1975 as International Women's Year. Such an International Year would be a good opportunity to undertake world-wide action to promote the advancement of women and their full participation in the economic, social, political and cultural development of their countries.

44. With regard to the projects initiated by the Commission on the Status of Women, she attached particular interest to the study of an international instrument or instruments relating to the status of women (see resolution 5 (XXIV))³ and the study on the status of rural women, especially agricultural workers (see resolution 14 (XXIV)). Mongolia also welcomed Economic and Social Council resolution 1677 (LII) which requested States to submit information, in a four-year cycle, on the implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

45. With regard to the status of women in Mongolia, she pointed out that one of the greatest historical achievements of the Mongolian people had been to ensure to women the civil and political rights necessary to enable them to participate in national development on an equal footing with men. In Mongolia, 51 per cent of the members of agricultural co-operatives and 46.5 per cent of industrial workers were women. Women made up 70 per cent of medical workers, 53 per cent of medical workers with higher education, 46 per cent of children's doctors and 46 per cent of

³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 6, chap. VIII.*

teachers. That meant that women had become a major force in the social and cultural advancement of Mongolia. Particular importance was also attached to women's education in Mongolia, and it should be pointed out that 50 per cent of the pupils in all Mongolian schools were girls. The Government had adopted a special resolution which provided that the medical faculties and teacher training schools for kindergarten teachers should reserve from 50 to 70 per cent of their places for women. Moreover, Mongolia attached great importance to maternal welfare and, in consequence, women were granted paid maternity leave of 90 days and nursing mothers received other special benefits from the Government. There was an extensive network of maternity homes, children's clinics, nursery schools and kindergartens.

46. Mr. TRAORÉ (Mali) said that it was comforting to note that the international community, on the basis of the dictates of reason and the realities of the situation, had adopted legal instruments which accorded equal rights to men and women. Since the United Nations represented a very important part of the world conscience, it was logical that it should promote measures designed to break down artificially erected barriers between men and women.

47. With regard to the draft resolution in Council resolution 1676 (LII), on the employment of women in senior and other professional positions by the secretariats of organizations in the United Nations system, his delegation would be able to support it entirely, except that it found the wording of operative paragraph 3 somewhat ambiguous. It was the established practice of the Secretariat, in the recruitment of personnel, to take account of its own needs and of the background of candidates, without any kind of discrimination. His delegation therefore had no objection to the more extensive publicizing of vacant posts and to the right of nationals of Member States to apply for those posts, but it would like to be sure that the direct method of recruitment implied in the resolution would not prevail over the methods normally followed for the recruitment of staff, which consisted in responding to the express wishes of the Governments of the States Members of the Organization. The role of women in contemporary society was such a delicate and complex one that all necessary measures to ensure that their recruitment for international positions was not determined solely by the existence of resolutions or by the exclusive needs of the secretariats of organizations in the United Nations system. For those reasons, his delegation would vote in favour of the text as a whole, with express reservations on operative paragraph 3.

48. Mrs. NIGAM (India) said that she wished to explain her vote before the vote on the draft resolution on capital punishment (A/C.3/L.1964), which she would support in view of the importance attached to the subject. The concept of capital punishment as a deterrent was undergoing changes in many countries. The Government of India was also studying the advisability of retaining or abolishing that very extreme form of punishment and to that end had set up a committee to study the question and formulate recommendations.

There was an urgent need to examine the basic concept of capital punishment in the broad perspective of general prison reforms and reforms of the penal law. Many countries had discarded the death penalty as an outmoded system. Recently it had been suspended in the United Kingdom on the basis of the recommendations of a Royal Commission established to study the question.

49. She had taken a keen personal interest in the subject and had arrived at the conclusion, after interviewing many prisoners sentenced to death a week or two before their execution, that capital punishment did not appear to act as a deterrent at all. In her opinion, the death sentence was feudal in character and was based on a feeling of revenge and a total lack of understanding of human nature. That extreme form of punishment could be replaced by measures of prevention and correction. In India experiments had been made involving the conversion of prisons into correctional homes and it had been found that even the most hardened criminals responded to sympathetic corrective treatment. It would be better to convert more prisons into correctional homes than to continue spending huge sums of money to maintain prisons which might perhaps harden criminals even more.

50. She hoped that those Member States which had not yet furnished information to the Secretary-General on that topic would do so as soon as possible, so that, armed with a wider range of data, the Economic and Social Council could consider the subject in depth.

51. Mr. VAN WALSUM (Netherlands) said that, as a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.3/L.1964, he was gratified by the statement made by the representative of India, since it had been infused with a spirit which the sponsors wished to see applied to that question. With regard to the draft resolutions in Council resolution 1681 (LII), he would abstain from voting because he considered that international years were being proclaimed far too frequently, which would only result in no one being able to keep track of what those years were supposed to commemorate. As for the amendments in documents A/C.3/L.1966 and A/C.3/L.1967/Rev.1, he acknowledged that they improved the text, but said that his delegation would abstain in the vote on them also because it could still not support the proclamation of an International Women's Year.

52. Lady ELLES (United Kingdom) said that she would abstain from voting on the draft resolution in resolution 1681 (LII). With regard to the amendments in document A/C.3/L.1967/Rev.1, she noted that the first of those amendments suggested that Governments chalk out time-bound programmes, which, if what was meant was "to elaborate a programme within fixed time-limits", was not practical in view of the innumerable problems of discrimination which faced different nations. The second amendment was superfluous, as its provisions already appeared in operative paragraph 2 (a) of the amendment in document A/C.3/L.1966. Lastly, she recognized that the amendment in document A/C.3/L.1966 substantially improved the text,

but she would nevertheless abstain on it on grounds of consistency.

53. Mr. NENEMAN (Poland), in explanation of his vote, said that he would support the draft resolution in resolution 1681 (LII), despite the fact that he was against the proliferation of international years, because he believed that its content was adequate. In Poland, women enjoyed the same rights as men and working mothers enjoyed certain privileges as well. With regard to the draft resolution in resolution 1676 (LII), he agreed with the idea on which it was based, but thought that it was for the Governments to try to bring more women into important posts in the Secretariat, since they were called upon to designate more women candidates. He therefore did not agree with operative paragraph 3, which included the words "including more extensive publicizing of the right of individuals personally to apply for vacant positions", and requested that a separate vote be taken on that phrase. He, for his part, would vote against it, and he thought that other delegations would do the same.

54. Mr. PARDOS (Spain) said that he had not joined in the debate because the position of his delegation was well known. In principle, he had certain reservations regarding the advisability of celebrating another international year, but bearing in mind the fact that the amendment proposed by the delegations of Greece and Guatemala (A/C.3/L.1966) substantially improved the draft resolution in resolution 1681 (LII), he would be able to vote in favour of that text.

55. Mrs. HYERA (United Republic of Tanzania) said that her delegation's non-participation in the debate was not due to lack of interest in the question of the emancipation of women. Her delegation would accordingly support the draft resolutions in Council resolutions 1681 (LII) and 1676 (LII), and hoped they would be implemented fully and promptly. It would also vote in favour of draft resolution A/C.3/L.1964 on capital punishment, for humanitarian reasons and on the understanding that it was procedural.

56. Mrs. WARZAZI (Morocco), referring to the request by the representative of Poland for a separate vote on the words "including more extensive publicizing of the right of individuals personally to apply for vacant positions" in paragraph 3 of the draft resolution in resolution 1676 (LII), requested the Director of the Division of Human Rights to explain United Nations procedure for appointing staff to high posts. In particular, she wished to know whether an individual could apply for a post without Government intervention. Furthermore, she wished the representative of India to define the meaning of the words "national Governments" in the amendments submitted in document A/C.3/L.1967/Rev.1.

57. The CHAIRMAN said that the General Assembly, in transmitting the Council's report to the Third Committee, had observed that section A 6 of chapter XIV, which referred to the draft resolution in resolution 1676 (LII), submitted to the Committee for its consideration, might also be of concern to the

Fifth Committee. He therefore suggested that, once the Committee had taken a decision on it, the draft resolution should, as decided, be brought to the attention of the Fifth Committee before being submitted to the Assembly in plenary meeting.

58. Mr. SCHREIBER (Director, Division of Human Rights) said that, as the Chairman had already stated, the draft resolution in resolution 1676 (LII), in the form in which it might be adopted by the Third Committee, would be considered by the Fifth Committee, which dealt with the question of the appointment of Secretariat staff. As far as he knew, not much publicity was given to the vacancies occurring in the Secretariat. However, the Office of Personnel examined requests from those who sought employment in the Organization and, in his understanding, eventually appointed some of them.

59. Mr. WANG (China), referring to the amendments in document A/C.3/L.1967/Rev.1, said that, although his Government had always considered that the principle of equal pay for equal work should be guaranteed by legislation, it took the view that the ratification by the Chiang Kai-shek clique of ILO Convention No. 100 was null and void and wished its reservations on that question to be recorded.

60. Mr. BOIVINEAU (France) said that his delegation supported the draft resolution in resolution 1681 (LII), although it opposed in principle the initiatives connected with the commemoration of international years because it feared that the proliferation of such years might prejudice the interest of the international community in commemorating them. However, in view of the importance of advancing the legal and social status of women, he felt that the proclamation of an international women's year would be appropriate.

61. Mr. KABORÉ (Upper Volta) said that, if a vote was taken paragraph by paragraph on the draft resolution in resolution 1676 (LII), his delegation would vote in favour of all the operative paragraphs, in view of the explanation given by the Director of the Division of Human Rights in reply to the question raised by the representative of Morocco and in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the Charter.

62. Mrs. NIGAM (India) said that, although her delegation supported the draft resolution in resolution 1681 (LII), it considered that the operative part could be made more effective and, with that end in view, had submitted the amendments contained in document A/C.3/L.1967/Rev.1. The first amendment would have the General Assembly suggest that national Governments chalk out time-bound programmes for the removal of discrimination against women in legal, social, professional, economic and political fields. In that connexion, she drew the Committee's attention to the sixth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution and pointed out that it was not possible to set targets without taking into account the time required to attain them. Furthermore, in the seventh preambular paragraph, mention was made of the intensification of the action required to advance the status of women.

She wondered how that action could be intensified without a resolution directed towards action. In operative paragraph 4, the Secretary-General was requested to prepare, in consultation with Member States, specialized agencies and interested non-governmental organizations, within the limits of the existing resources, a draft programme for the International Women's Year. However, the Secretary-General could not prepare that programme without the assistance of Member States, since they would be mainly responsible for implementing it.

63. The second amendment would have the General Assembly invite States that had not yet done so to ratify as soon as possible ILO Convention No. 100. That Convention had been ratified by about 77 States but, regrettably, not all States had done so. That amendment was aimed at assisting ratification, principally by those States in which women did not enjoy equality, so that the necessary legislation could be adopted for the purpose of eliminating such discrimination. That amendment would earn the recognition of the ILO and of all those who believed in the equality of women.

64. Turning to the amendment submitted by Greece and Guatemala in document A/C.3/L.1966, she pointed out that the provisions of operative paragraph 2 (b), proposed in that document, were already contained in the fifth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution in resolution 1681 (LII). However, the sponsors of the amendments in document A/C.3/L.1967/Rev.1 were ready to withdraw their first amendment in the hope that its contents would be included in the programme for the International Women's Year, if the second could be incorporated into amendment A/C.3/L.1966, so that all amendments were combined into one.

65. Mrs. DAES (Greece), speaking on behalf of her delegation and that of Guatemala, expressed her gratitude to the sponsors of the amendments in document A/C.3/L.1967/Rev.1 and confirmed that the incorporation of the second amendment into their own amendment (A/C.3/L.1966) would be acceptable. The paragraph proposed for incorporation in that amendment would become paragraph 4 of the draft resolution in question.

66. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on draft resolution A/C.3/L.1964.

The draft resolution was adopted by 76 votes to none, with 27 abstentions.

67. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the amendments contained in document A/C.3/L.1965/Rev.1 to the draft resolution in Council resolution 1676 (LII).

The amendments in document A/C.3/L.1965/Rev.1 were adopted unanimously.

68. The CHAIRMAN said that, at the request of the representative of Poland, a separate vote would be taken on the words "including more extensive publicizing of the right of individuals personally to apply for vacant positions", contained in paragraph 3 of the draft resolution.

It was decided to retain the words by 63 votes to 28, with 7 abstentions.

69. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the draft resolution in resolution 1676 (LII) as a whole, as amended.

The draft resolution as a whole, as amended, was adopted unanimously.

70. The CHAIRMAN recalled that the first of the amendments in document A/C.3/L.1967/Rev.1 had been withdrawn, and that the second had been incorporated into the amendment in document A/C.3/L.1966, so that a vote should be taken on the latter.

The amendment in document A/C.3/L.1966, as amended, was adopted by 106 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

71. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the draft resolution in Council resolution 1681 (LII) as a whole, as amended.

The draft resolution as a whole, as amended, was adopted by 108 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

72. Mrs. JAKOBSDÓTTIR (Iceland) said that she had voted in favour of the draft resolution. As a sponsor of the amendments in document A/C.3/L.1967/Rev.1, which had been withdrawn, her delegation was pleased to note that the Committee had accepted the inclusion in the draft resolution of the second of those amendments, relating to the ratification of ILO Convention No. 100. Like the representative of Norway (see 1946th meeting), she felt it would have been preferable if the International Women's Year had been entitled "International Year for the Promotion of Equality between Men and Women".

73. Mrs. BRUCE (Secretariat) thanked members of the Committee for the kind words that they had addressed to Mrs. Sipilä, Assistant Secretary-General for Social and Humanitarian Matters, which she would be pleased to transmit to her. She would also inform her of the discussions in the Committee and notify her that the two draft resolutions in which she had been so interested had been adopted.

The meeting rose at 1.40 p.m.