

1976th meeting

Monday, 28 July 1975, at 10.50 a.m.

President: Mr. I. A. AKHUND (Pakistan)

E/SR.1976

In the absence of the President, Mr. Longestaey (Belgium), Vice-President, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 5

International Women's Year (*concluded*) (E/5725; E/L.1673)

1. Mr. MAHMOOD (Pakistan), introducing draft resolution E/L.1673 on behalf of the sponsors, said that Fiji should be added to the list of sponsors.

2. For centuries women had been discriminated against; customs and beliefs had developed which treated women as inferior to men and had the effect of excluding them from the mainstream of political, social and other aspects of life. His delegation considered that the question of improving the lot of women in no way differed from that of improving the quality of life for mankind as a whole. It was not so much a matter of granting women rights as of recognizing and respecting their inherent rights as human beings. As women constituted half of the world's population, they of necessity could not but be a major factor in any programme aimed at the development of society. Therefore, the realization of their rights should be taken not only as an end in itself but also as the means to effect the desired changes in society.

3. The draft resolution was not a controversial one and its aims were dear to everyone. The sponsors therefore hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

4. Miss GUEVARA ACHAVAL (Argentina) and Ms. TURNBULL (Australia), speaking as sponsors of the draft resolution, urged the Council to adopt it by consensus.

5. Mr. FRAZÃO (Brazil) drew attention to the fact that the second Council resolution referred to in the first preambular paragraph should be "1850 (LVI)" and not "1350 (LVI)".

6. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) suggested the insertion of the phrase "and also of the resolutions contained in the report" at the end of operative paragraph 1. The resolutions contained important provisions which were of great significance for the future development of United Nations and national activities in the sphere of women's movements. With that change, his delegation would be happy to support the draft resolution.

7. Mr. KINSMAN (Canada), supported by Mr. FRAZÃO (Brazil) and Mrs. HIRLEMANN (France), pointed out that if the Council took note of the report, it automatically took note of the resolutions contained in it.

8. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the essence of the World Conference of the

International Women's Year was contained in the resolutions and not in the Declaration of Mexico, 1975, and the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year. The resolutions defined the political direction of the work of the World Conference, which had been held mainly in the interests of the developing countries, particularly the least developed among them, and of the women in those countries. The draft resolution as it stood was quite insufficient.

9. After some further discussion, in which Mr. MAHMOOD (Pakistan), Mr. CHANG Ping-t sien (China), Mr. BARCELÓ (Mexico), Mr. MCGILCHRIST (Jamaica), Ms. TURNBULL (Australia), Mr. MUDHO (Kenya) and Mr. BERAHA (Bulgaria) took part, the PRESIDENT suggested that the meeting should be suspended to enable the sponsors and other interested delegations to find a generally acceptable text.

The meeting was suspended at 11.20 a.m. and resumed at 12.10 p.m.

10. Mr. MAHMOOD (Pakistan) said that it had been agreed during the informal consultations which had taken place that the USSR representative's point could be met by amending the fourth preambular paragraph of draft resolution E/L.1673 to read:

Considering that certain of the recommendations and resolutions of the Conference require urgent action.

The amendment to the fourth preambular paragraph was adopted.

11. The PRESIDENT suggested that the following additional paragraph should be inserted, as operative paragraph 1, the existing operative paragraphs to be re-numbered accordingly:

Expresses its appreciation to the Government and people of Mexico for their generous contribution to the success of the World Conference of the International Women's Year.

The President's suggestion was adopted.

Draft resolution E/L.1673, as amended, was adopted.

12. Mrs. HIRLEMANN (France), supported by Mr. FERNÁNDEZ VILLAVÉRDE (Spain), said that, while welcoming the sponsors' efforts to produce an acceptable text, her delegation had a reservation to make on the words "should ensure that adequate budgetary provision is made for this purpose" in the original operative paragraph 3 (new operative paragraph 4). It could not commit its Government with regard to a budgetary provision whose size was at present unknown.

13. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, while it was grateful to the sponsors for having

taken its views into account, his delegation, too, had a reservation to make on the same operative paragraph. Care should be taken to keep the cost of the measures envisaged within the present budgetary provisions. His delegation assumed that the international research and training institute for the promotion of women, referred to in the original operative paragraph 7 (new operative paragraph 8), would be financed on a voluntary basis, as envisaged in the resolutions adopted at the World Conference of the International Women's Year. His delegation would like those reservations to be noted in the Council's report.

14. Mr. CHANG Ping-tsien (China) said that, in supporting the draft resolution, his delegation wished to make the following observations. The emancipation of women in every country was an inseparable part of the struggle of the entire nation and people. The work of the World Conference of the International Women's Year formed only a part of the world struggle against imperialism, colonialism and hegemony and too high an appraisal had been given to it in the second preambular paragraph of the resolution, in claiming that it had "marked a turning point signalling decisive changes designed to improve the status of women". His delegation maintained the views it had already expressed on the resolutions adopted at the Conference.

15. The report referred to in the original operative paragraph 1 (new operative paragraph 2) of the resolution was incomplete and his delegation reserved its right to comment further when the full report had been received.

16. Mr. SYMONS (United Kingdom) said that, while supporting the resolution as an endorsement of the positive elements in the World Conference of the International Women's Year, his delegation maintained the reservations it had made at the Conference on certain portions of the Declaration of Mexico, to which reference was made in the original paragraph 1 (new operative paragraph 2) of the resolution. It shared the French representative's reservation on the original operative paragraph 3 (new operative paragraph 4). It viewed operative paragraph 7 (new operative paragraph 8) as an "enabling" paragraph for putting into effect the Conference resolution on the subject, which envisaged that the Secretary-General would report to the Council at its sixtieth session, and it interpreted the paragraph as implying the same time-scale.

17. Mr. BAKER (United States of America) said that his delegation maintained the position it had taken at Mexico City on the various resolutions and declarations of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, and had the same reservations to make on the original operative paragraph 3 (new operative paragraph 4) of the resolution as had been made by the representatives of France and the United Kingdom.

18. Ms. TURNBULL (Australia) said that her delegation had been pleased to co-sponsor the draft resolution, and welcomed the efforts made by all concerned to reach a consensus on what it considered to be an important topic. It hoped the momentum achieved would be permanently maintained. Her delegation was, however, unable to commit its Government to making further contributions to the voluntary fund referred to in the original operative paragraph 6 (new operative paragraph 7), pending further information on the subject.

19. Mr. NAVON (Observer for Israel), speaking at the invitation of the President, said that his Government's view on the introduction of politics into international bodies concerned with non-political issues was well known and was shared by many. He could not refrain, however, from expressing his Government's dismay at one of the resolutions of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, at the way in which it had been adopted and at the attempt to besmirch the Zionist movement, which was one of the noblest national liberation movements of modern times.

20. Ms. URBINA (Mexico) said that her delegation welcomed the consensus reached on the draft resolution and was grateful for the words of appreciation addressed to the Mexican Government and people for their efforts to provide a favourable setting for the work of the World Conference of the International Women's Year. The success of the Conference was due in great part to the efforts and co-operative spirit of the many delegations which had participated in it. The status of women was not merely an important matter for women themselves but was an essential issue for the entire human race at a time when it was necessary for men and women to work together to improve the lot of mankind.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.
