



Twentieth session

CONSTITUTIONS, ELECTORAL LAWS AND OTHER LEGAL INSTRUMENTS  
RELATING TO THE POLITICAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN

Memorandum by the Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General has the honour to circulate herewith the annual memorandum on progress achieved in the field of political rights of women.<sup>1/</sup> It is prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 120 A (VI) of 3 March 1948 in which the Secretary-General was requested to bring up to date annually information on the political rights of women and their eligibility for public office. The Secretary-General has also taken into account the recommendations contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 587 B (XX) of 3 August 1955, and the request of the Commission on the Status of Women made at its tenth session.<sup>2/</sup>
2. The memorandum contains provisions taken from constitutions, electoral laws and other legal instruments which grant, restrict or deny women the right to vote and to be elected to public office, which were available as at 1 September 1965.
3. It also includes, in an annex, the following tables:
  - I. Countries where women may vote in all elections and are eligible for election on an equal basis with men;
  - II. Countries where the right to vote and/or the eligibility of women are subject to limitations not imposed on men;

<sup>1/</sup> For previous reports, see documents A/619 and Add.1 and 2 and Corr.1, A/1163, A/1342 and Corr.1, A/1911, A/2154 and Add.1 and 2, A/2462, A/2692 and Corr.1, A/2952 and Add.1, A/3145 and Add.1, A/3627 and Corr.1, A/3889, A/4159, A/4407, A/4824 and Corr.1, A/5153, A/5456 and Add.1 and A/5735.

<sup>2/</sup> Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twenty-second Session, Supplement No. 4 (E/2850), para. 30.

- III. Countries where women have no voting rights and are not eligible for election;
- IV. Dates on which women were granted the right to vote;
- V. Countries which have taken action since the signature of the United Nations Charter (1945) confirming, granting or extending full or limited political rights to women;
- VI. Countries which have signed, ratified, acceded to or notified acceptance of the Convention on the Political Rights of Women as at 1 September 1965. The appendix to this table contains declarations and reservations to the Convention and objections to these reservations.

4. The last memorandum (A/5735), circulated to the General Assembly at its nineteenth session, presented information available as at 1 September 1964. Since its publication, the following developments relating to the political rights of women have been brought to the attention of the Secretary-General:

5. In Afghanistan, under the Constitution of 1 October 1964, women acquired the right to vote and to be eligible for election.

6. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo the Constitution of 1 August 1964 and the "décret-loi du 6 octobre 1964 portant organisation des élections nationales et provinciales en vue de la mise en place des nouvelles institutions législatives prévues par la Constitution" provide that only male citizens have voting rights and are eligible for election.

7. In Gambia, which became independent in 1965, the Constitution of 29 January 1965 makes no distinction between men and women with regard to the right to vote and to be elected.

8. In Malawi, which became independent in 1964, the Constitution of 23 June 1964 makes no distinction between men and women with regard to the right to vote or to be eligible for election.

9. In Malta, which became independent in 1964, under the provisions of the Constitution of 21 September 1964, women have the right to vote and to be eligible for election.

10. In the information supplied to the Secretary-General under Economic and Social Council resolution 961 B (XXXVI) concerning the implementation of the Convention on