

2075th meeting

Tuesday, 29 October 1974, at 3.10 p.m.

Chairman: Mrs. Aminata MARICO (Mali).

A/C.3/SR.2075

AGENDA ITEM 12

Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapters III (sections D to F), IV (section J), V (sections A to C, D, paragraphs 436 to 478, 487 to 492 and 494 to 506, and E), VI (sections A.1 to 5 and 7, E and G) and VII (sections 1 to 3)] (continued) (A/9603, A/9637, A/9707, A/9733, A/9764, A/9767, A/9785, A/C.3/L.2110/Rev.2, 2113/Rev.1, 2117, 2118/Rev.1, 2119, 2120)

1. The CHAIRMAN announced that Belgium, Turkey and Zambia had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2113/Rev.1. She then invited the Committee to consider the amendments to draft resolution A/C.3/L.2110/Rev.2 contained in documents A/C.3/L.2119 and A/C.3/L.2120.

2. Mr. ALFONSO (Cuba) said that although the text in document A/C.3/L.2110/Rev.2 was an improvement over the original, his delegation still had serious reservations about the draft resolution, as he had explained in a previous statement. It would therefore abstain in the vote.

3. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the first of the amendments to draft resolution A/C.3/L.2110/Rev.2 contained in document A/C.3/L.2119.

The first of the amendments contained in document A/C.3/L.2119 was adopted by 21 votes to 10, with 47 abstentions.

4. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the fourth preambular paragraph, as amended, of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2110/Rev.2.

The paragraph, as amended, was adopted by 47 votes to none, with 31 abstentions.

5. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the second of the amendments contained in document A/C.3/L.2119.

The second of the amendments contained in document A/C.3/L.2119 was rejected by 33 votes to 21, with 36 abstentions.

6. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the amendment to draft resolution A/C.3/L.2110/Rev.2 contained in document A/C.3/L.2120.

The amendment contained in document A/C.3/L.2120 was rejected by 32 votes to 21, with 31 abstentions.

Draft resolution A/C.3/L.2110/Rev.2 as a whole, as amended, was adopted by 72 votes to none, with 27 abstentions.

7. Mrs. RAKOTOFIRINGA (Madagascar) said that her delegation considered that the full integration of women into the over-all development effort was primarily a national matter. It was understandable that a developing country in which there were women with the necessary qualifications for holding senior posts in the United Nations Secretariat should prefer them to remain within the country and assume responsibilities at the national level. That should at least partly alleviate the concern of the Deputy Director of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, in charge of the Promotion of Equality of Men and Women Branch, at the lack of applications from women from under-represented countries for senior posts in the Secretariat. However, that did not by any means signify that her delegation was not in sympathy with Economic and Social Council resolution 1857 (LVI), which was aimed at preventing any discrimination on the grounds of sex in the decisions taken by the Secretary-General regarding recruitment and promotion.

8. While on the subject of resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-sixth session, she said that she would like to make a comment on resolution 1861 (LVI), concerning the protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence even though the corresponding part of the Council's report (A/9603, para. 493) was not on the Committee's agenda. If the Committee considered that journalists, as part of the civilian population, should enjoy special protection in times of armed conflict, there was all the more reason for it to concern itself with the fate of women and children, and also of the elderly, who together constituted the most vulnerable sectors of the civilian population. In the Sixth Committee, in considering the legal aspect of the draft resolution recommended by the Council in that resolution, Madagascar would not lose sight of its humanitarian aspect.

9. Her delegation considered that the participation of the specialized agencies in the Programme for the International Women's Year (Economic and Social Council resolution 1849 (LVI), annex) was encouraging and welcomed the election of a woman as Chairman of the eighteenth session of the General Conference of UNESCO. It had also noted with interest the decision of UNESCO, the ILO and WHO to pay particular attention during the Year to questions which were of particular urgency for countries like her own.

10. So far a number of measures had been taken in Madagascar in preparation for International Women's Year. As her Government had informed the Secretary-General, an inter-ministerial committee was responsible for preparing and implementing the programme of activities planned at the national level. Women's organizations were represented

on the committee and participated in its work. The activities connected with the Year would concentrate on the following: a study of customs and traditions in all parts of Madagascar; the raising of the general cultural level; and increasing awareness among Malagasy women—and even more so among Malagasy men—of the importance of the role played by women in the development of the country. For those purposes the preparatory committee had decided to make a list of the regional women's organizations and to investigate the *de facto* situation of women throughout the island. With reference to publicity, she said that activities such as exhibitions highlighting the cultural and artistic achievements of women and competitions for school children on themes relating to the status of women were planned. There was to be a special programme on radio and television, and posters and brochures about the Year would also be prepared.

11. The Programme adopted by the Economic and Social Council was so broad and varied that each country could find in it something which would suit its purposes and could be adapted to the particular situation of women in its territory. That was the principle which would guide her Government in implementing the provisions of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2113/Rev.1.

12. Her delegation regarded draft resolution A/C.3/L.2117 concerning the International Women's Year conference as a procedural one and would vote for it, particularly as it considered that the main idea reflected in Economic and Social Council resolution 1851 (LVI)—full and equal partnership between men and women—was very important. That spirit should guide all the activities to be undertaken during the Year. Her delegation considered that the major obstacle which hindered the contribution of women and men as full partners in the total development efforts was the aggressive attitude with which women approached the problem. Clearly, if men were treated as colonialists and imperialists their co-operation would not be obtained. If women were to have equality with men, they should adopt an attitude free from either superiority or inferiority complexes.

13. Mr. PIERCE (Jamaica) said that his Government attached great importance to the International Women's Year and the wide range of topics discussed by the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-fifth session. Although details of Jamaica's activities for the Year were still in the planning stage, his Government expected to carry out a wide range of activities at the national level such as seminars, exhibitions and publications. His delegation hoped that there would be co-ordination between the Office of Public Information of the Secretariat and the United Nations bodies and agencies which were undertaking special public information measures in connexion with the Year on the one hand and the national organizations on the other, so that not only would full exposure be given to the various programmes produced, but enough thought would be given to them so that they could be utilized by the various sectors of the community, particularly in rural areas. His delegation also hoped that the information contained in the publications and studies to be prepared by UNESCO in connexion with the Year would be made available to those sectors of the community that it was important to reach. It had appreciated the introductory

statements made by the representatives of the ILO (2072nd meeting) and WHO (2074th meeting), and hoped that representatives of other specialized agencies would also provide the Committee with details of their plans for the Year. His delegation understood that the Economic Commission for Africa was the only regional economic commission to have established a long-term programme for the integration of women in development, and wondered whether other Commissions, particularly the Economic Commission for Latin America, had given any thought to the matter, and, if so, whether they could inform the Committee as to their ideas.

14. As part of its long-term plans, his Government had established a post of Director of Women's Affairs, which was to be the nucleus of the Office of Women's Affairs that would be responsible for administering all programmes for the full integration of women into society. That did not imply that there had been a deliberate policy to debar women from playing an active role in Jamaican society, and a number of women had made notable contributions in their chosen fields. However, the Director's efforts would be focused on examining existing legislation to see where legal biases against women existed, so that steps could be taken to have them removed. The Office would be responsible for formulating plans for the training and employment of women in Jamaica. His Government saw a direct link between the establishment of a new international economic order (see General Assembly resolution 3201 (S.VI) and section B of the Programme for the International Women's Year, relating to development. It was one of the imperatives of the time that all countries, and especially developing countries, should develop and make use of all their resources. It had been shown that women's lack of opportunities had a serious effect on population factors and that both had detrimental effects on development. In that connexion his delegation was pleased to note operative paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2113/Rev.1. His Government had committed itself to make more of its resources available specifically for the training and employment of women.

15. In connexion with Economic and Social Council resolution 1857 (LVI), his delegation considered it imperative that the United Nations should rectify the situation within its own Secretariat where the employment of women was concerned. Unless Governments had already trained and employed women in responsible positions within their own countries they would not be able to recommend qualified and experienced women for employment by international organizations. One way to break that vicious circle was perhaps for Governments to take deliberate steps to create educational, training and employment opportunities for women to enable them to participate fully in national life. The "Percy amendment" relating to United States bilateral foreign aid programmes would seem to be a step in that direction.

16. His delegation wondered whether, in view of the fact that Economic and Social Council resolutions 1857 (LVI) and 1861 (LVI) had been referred to the Fifth and Sixth Committees, and in view of paragraph 33 of the Programme for the International Women's Year, consideration could be given to having matters relating to the integration of women in the total development effort discussed in the Second Committee.

17. Mrs. SIPILÄ (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) recalled that in paragraph 3 of its resolution 1851 (LVI), the Economic and Social Council had accepted the invitation of the Government of Colombia to act as host to the international conference during the International Women's Year in 1975. On 16 October 1974 the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mexico had informed the Secretary-General that his Government would be willing to act as host to the conference should there be any change of venue, and that offer had been confirmed by the Permanent Representative of Mexico in a communication to the Secretary-General dated 24 October 1974. On 25 October 1974 the Secretary-General had received a communication from the Permanent Representative of Colombia indicating that his Government was no longer in a position to act as host to the Conference and withdrawing its invitation, having regard in particular to the willingness of another Member State to offer host facilities.

18. Both communications would be annexed to a note to be issued by the Secretary-General,¹ and the Secretary-General would inform the Economic and Social Council of the change of plan at its resumed fifty-seventh session. The matter would also be brought to the attention of the Fifth Committee in connexion with the item entitled "Pattern of conferences".

19. Mrs. BADIO (Liberia) said that her delegation welcomed the proclamation of 1975 as International Women's Year. As a member of the Commission on the Status of Women it had actively participated in the preparations for it. An ILO report of the previous year had stated that at least two persons out of three lived in rural areas and in the developing countries an average of 50 to 60 per cent of the population was engaged in agriculture. The emphasis placed on the development of women in rural areas therefore constituted a powerful stimulus for action, and the celebration of the International Women's Year should provide the opportunity for such specialized agencies as WHO, FAO and the ILO to redouble their efforts to improve the living standard of rural women and integrate them into the life of their communities. Her delegation was therefore happy to note that WHO and FAO had been working in close co-operation on health education for rural women. It was also gratifying that the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) would be holding a regional meeting before the end of 1974 on the integration of women in development and that ECA and FAO had undertaken an itinerant training programme for home economists and family-oriented workers in rural areas.

20. If the status of women was to be raised in order for them to participate in decision-making, they must be given equal opportunities with men everywhere in the world. Discrimination against women would continue until women attained the highest level of education and the myth that they were fit only to care for their homes and children ceased to prevail. To achieve that end, goodwill, mutual respect, human understanding and realistic international co-operation were indispensable.

21. The President of Liberia was in favour of the participation of women in all aspects of national life and

was promoting such participation in practice, as had been shown by his appointment of a woman judge and a woman ambassador. Liberia was engaged in removing all forms of discrimination. Her Government had begun to implement a number of national plans for the International Women's Year, including the establishment of a special interdepartmental committee to assist with the preparation for the observance of the Year.

22. Mr. LAURENT (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that FAO's preparations for the International Women's Year were proceeding well. For many months it had been evolving programmes through an *ad hoc* interdisciplinary working group organized specifically for the purpose, and the five regional FAO conferences which had recently ended had made substantive recommendations to that body. Similar feed-back was expected soon from a world-wide survey currently in progress which sought to identify criteria for the training of personnel working with rural women. FAO had sponsored a one-week seminar on the role of women in integrated rural development, with emphasis on population problems, which had been held in Cairo in October 1974. The seminar was expected to provide further contributions of a regional character and should be an important asset in introducing the International Women's Year to the Western Asia region.

23. A growing number of requests for assistance were anticipated during the International Women's Year in three areas of interest both to FAO's programme of work and to the Commission on the Status of Women: those were the welfare of female workers involved in agricultural production and in related processing activities, the consolidation of the rural family unit as a functional mold for social and economic advance and the general pursuit of equality of opportunities. In connexion with the first area, the field personnel working at regional and country levels had been briefed to help carry out various schemes seeking greater productivity and higher labour efficiency, encouraging remunerative cottage industries and similar objectives. In promoting them either as individual projects or preferably as components of comprehensive development activities, FAO would closely match the intentions of Governments, aware that the success of those programmes often entailed new factors in institutional systems. As in the past, it would count on effective interagency co-operation. With regard to the consolidation of the rural family unit, there was no doubt that the impact of the World Population Conference, held at Bucharest in August 1974, would facilitate the acceptance of the package programme "Planning for Better Family Living" which FAO intended to expand during the Year. While changes in attitudes concerning responsible parenthood or in legislation on family matters went beyond the scope of short-term projects, experience had shown that much could be done in that respect by Governments in the way of surveys and pilot schemes, which could allow a more accurate identification of problems or bottlenecks. The FAO/ECA project on home economics and rural development was taking a joint approach to the problem, and that project, which was already operational, would continue throughout the International Women's Year. In addition, the relevant technical divisions of FAO planned to intensify their efforts during the Year in training family-oriented staff at various levels. FAO had agreed with the conclusion reached at the World Population Conference

¹ Document E/L.1615, dated 18 November 1974.

that the elevation of the status of women and their full integration into a developing society on an equal basis with men was a value in itself as well as an aid to development. When transplanted to the level of employment procedures, the fulfilment of the objective of equality required breaking down strong customary and legal barriers. However, it was likely to be tackled successfully when, in addition to isolated country programmes, it was supported by the political will of national leaders united in the pursuit of common purposes. That was the basis of the plans under way for an expanded pan-African woman's programme to which FAO was devoting close attention. In the mid-term of the Second Development Decade, FAO was trying to assess how far rural women were being integrated in development.

24. Both FAO and the FAO/UN World Food Programme would join several other United Nations bodies in offering adequate visual aids as well as appropriate articles in their periodic publications during the Year.

25. Mrs. SÄLZLER (German Democratic Republic) said that her delegation was in full agreement with Economic and Social Council resolution 1849 (LVI) on the International Women's Year, and with the proposals contained in draft resolutions A/C.3/L.2113/Rev.1 and A/C.3/L.2117.

26. Since the foundation of the German Democratic Republic, one of its foremost concerns had been the implementation of equal rights for men and women. To attain that objective, it had been necessary to rescind all laws that ran counter to it and to enact new legal norms ensuring equality before the law for men and women. Article 20 of the Constitution of the German Democratic Republic provided for equality and the same legal status for men and women and also declared that the promotion of women, particularly with regard to vocational qualifications, was a task of society and the State. However, equality for men and women was not only enshrined in article 20; it underlay the whole Constitution, which guaranteed women's rights to leisure time and recreation, to the protection of health and working capacity, and to special protection in marriage, in the family and in motherhood, among other things. Those principles were reflected in specific laws and regulations, such as the laws on the protection of mother and child and on the rights of women.

27. However, the enactment of legal measures was not enough to ensure equality for women; obstacles to the achievement of that equality had to be eliminated. Since 1966, in accordance with the decision of the Council of Ministers, specific scientific research work had been carried out in the German Democratic Republic under the guidance of the Academy of Sciences in all the fields and branches where women worked. The Academy of Sciences had to submit to the Council of Ministers annual reports on the results of that work, to make proposals for the practical implementation of the findings, and to obtain the approval of the Council for priority tasks in its future research work. The questions of the education and training of women ranked high in the co-ordinated research programme, for knowledge and skill were the basis for the development of the personality of women, thanks to which they would

finally be able to take their place in society on an equal footing with men.

28. In her country, women from all strata of the population were now taking part in shaping social and political life at all levels. They shared in the decision-making on vital political questions and helped to carry out the tasks set for the benefit of women, their families, and society. In the German Democratic Republic 84 per cent of the women of working age went out to work and held responsible managerial posts in all branches of the national economy. In the trade unions, 45 per cent of all offices were held by women and one third of the members of Parliament were women. The Democratic Women's Organization was also represented in the local parliaments at all levels. The implementation of equal rights for women and the development of their personality had been possible only because of the efforts to create working and living conditions which would enable them to harmonize their duties as wives and mothers with the requirements of their jobs. A great number of establishments had been set up where children were cared for and could receive medical attention while their parents were at work. In addition, a whole programme of social and political measures had been introduced to make life easier for working women with children.

29. In the German Democratic Republic, the implementation of equal rights for women was not a concern of women alone but a task which was systematically promoted by State organs and mass organizations; however, it was still incumbent on women to encourage the process by their own activities. Although a great deal had been done to achieve equal rights for women, much still remained to be done. The Government and the people of her country welcomed the decision of the General Assembly to proclaim 1975 International Women's Year and to place it under the central theme of "Equality, development, peace".

30. The Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the German Democratic Republic had recently addressed a letter to the Secretary-General in which he had stated that the German Democratic Republic would do all it could to make the International Women's Year yet another highlight on the road to the achievement of the goals laid down in the Charter and to lay even greater stress on the Charter's humanitarian postulates. In September 1974 a committee had been set up for the preparation and observance of the Year. It was headed by the First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers and included among its members cabinet ministers, state secretaries and deputies to the People's Chamber, and representatives of central and state organs, the trade unions, women's and youth organizations, the League for the United Nations and other social organizations. It would supervise and co-ordinate the activities to mark the International Women's Year in the Republic and would draw up a programme to be considered by the Council of Ministers towards the end of the present year. In that letter the Chairman of the Council of Ministers also informed the Secretary-General of the activities which the German Democratic Republic planned in preparation for the international women's conference and the thirtieth session of the General Assembly. Those activities included the organization of Government-sponsored and non-governmental conferences and other events dedicated to the

International Women's Year, the adoption of medium- and long-term programmes for the advancement of women, especially in professional life, and the organization of cultural events and art exhibitions on problems of equal rights for men and women.

31. Her country had always attached great importance to the work of mass organizations in the struggle for the rights of women. It had therefore welcomed the holding of the World Congress of Women in Berlin in October 1975, which would give fresh impetus to women's work for peace, development and social progress, thus serving the same aims as the International Women's Year.

32. Mr. BATIBAY (Turkey) said that the question of the equality of women, cutting as it did across all national boundaries and affecting more than half the world's population, was of crucial importance. All human beings, irrespective of sex, suffered prejudice as a result of discrimination against women. Although the initial victims of such discrimination were women, the loss was felt by society as a whole since it lacked the human and prosperous environment in which to function adequately. The elimination of discrimination against women would therefore benefit both sexes. Such benefits were especially important to the developing countries in their struggle for economic and social development.

33. The International Women's Year provided an opportunity to mobilize and combine efforts to end discrimination on grounds of sex. The Year should not be for women alone, but should bring men and women together in a combined effort to solve their common problems. Turkey would contribute to all the international initiatives for co-operation, while taking appropriate action at the national level to reflect the significance of the Year. In that connexion he recalled the Seminar on the Status of Women and Family Planning held at Istanbul from 11 to 24 July 1972,² to which the Turkish Government had been happy to act as host. Turkey would also participate in the conference to be held in Mexico in June 1975. His Government had also appointed a young diplomat as liaison officer for the co-ordination of activities relating to the International Women's Year.

34. At the national level, mass media would be encouraged to give extensive coverage to the Year. Educational establishments would emphasize the existing and potential contribution of women to economic and social development, and world peace. Exhibitions of works of women artists would be organized and special books on the work of women scholars and scientists, both Turkish and non-Turkish, would be published.

35. Although Turkey could be proud of what it had done to eliminate discrimination against women since the establishment of the Turkish Republic under Kemal Atatürk 51 years before, there was still a long way to go before all discrimination against women was eradicated. In that connexion, the distinction between the status of women in urban and in rural areas was of crucial importance in Turkey as in all developing countries. Owing to the economic and social conditions prevailing in rural areas,

women were subject to more profound discrimination in those areas than in towns, a state of affairs largely reflecting the conditions of scarcity that characterized rural areas, particularly in the developing countries.

36. In conclusion, he said that Turkey would like to join the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2113/Rev.1.

37. Mr. CHIRILA (Romania) welcomed the intensification of activities on behalf of women to which the proclamation of the International Women's Year had given rise in different United Nations bodies, particularly the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council itself. Romania, which had been one of the sponsors of the original proposal, welcomed the progress being made towards achieving equality between men and women and integrating women in social and economic life and in the development effort; it also welcomed the increasing contribution of women to friendly relations and co-operation between States and to the strengthening of world peace. As a member of the Commission on the Status of Women, Romania had participated actively in drawing up the Programme for the Year, and it fully supported the programme and the goals laid down in Economic and Social Council resolution 1849 (LVI).

38. Romania was actively engaged in applying the programmes and priorities and attaining the goals laid down by the country's leaders. By its very essence, the socialist society of Romania guaranteed equal rights to all its citizens. Romanian women, who accounted for 51 per cent of the country's population, carried on their activities in a wide diversity of fields, demonstrating their capacity for work, their talents and their grasp of administration, and they were playing an increasingly active part in the economic, political, social and cultural life of the country. In June 1973, the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party had adopted an important resolution on increasing the role of women in the economic, political and social life of the country. In accordance with the spirit of that resolution, which was based on the idea that the development of democracy led to an increasing participation by women in politics, public affairs and the leadership of the community, an increasing number of women had been elected or appointed to posts in political, administrative and trade union bodies. At the same time, women were benefiting from the improvement in conditions relating to the protection of the family, the lightening of their household work, training, and the education of children. The activities of the Romanian women's organizations both within the country and outside it were actively encouraged. The thirtieth anniversary of the liberation of Romania and the eleventh Congress of the Romanian Communist Party, which fell in November 1974, would provide an opportunity for considering the progress achieved by women in the general context of the country's development.

39. Side by side with the programme at the national level, Romania was promoting activities for the advancement of women at the international level. The measures taken by United Nations bodies in that respect were much appreciated in Romania, where governmental and non-governmental bodies had taken concrete measures to participate in the Programme for the International Women's Year. A

² For the report of the seminar, see ST/TAO/HR/46.

national liaison officer for all questions relating to the status of women, and particularly for the International Women's Year, had been appointed, and Romania would participate in the activities organized by the United Nations or under its auspices in 1975.

40. Mrs. SIVOMEY (Togo) congratulated the Chairman and the Committee's other officers on their election, welcomed the delegations of Bangladesh, Grenada and Guinea-Bissau, the new members of the Committee, and expressed her sympathy to Honduras and Peru for the natural catastrophes with which they had been afflicted.

41. The Economic and Social Council was to be congratulated on having endorsed the work of the Commission on the Status of Women by adopting 14 resolutions on improving the status of women. The members of the Commission on the Status of Women were to be commended for the energy with which they were pursuing the Commission's purposes. She had listened with deep interest to the statement made by the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (2071st meeting), who was a living proof of the competence of women. In her capacity as Secretary-General of the International Women's Year and of the International Women's Year conference, the Assistant Secretary-General had been able to give a dynamic impetus to the activities connected therewith. She was ably seconded by the Deputy Director-in-Charge of the Promotion of Equality of Men and Women Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. The Division of Human Rights of the United Nations was also very active in the same field.

42. Togo had greatly benefited from the international activities organized in support of women's rights, and her Government firmly supported all action aimed at the removal of the obstacles which prevented women from participating fully in the political, economic, social and cultural life of their countries. She welcomed the fact that the General Assembly had declared 1975 International Women's Year. She agreed with the Assistant Secretary-General that the Year might act as a catalyst in achieving the minimum objectives of the Programme of concerted international action for the advancement of women adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 2716 (XXV). Her delegation fully supported the Programme for the International Women's Year and particularly welcomed the central theme of "Equality, development, peace". Those were the objectives of the Togolese government Party, the *Rassemblement du peuple togolais*, and they were incorporated in the national development plan. The entire Togolese people were therefore anxious to participate in the activities for the Year.

43. The Togolese Government was making every effort to ensure that equality between men and women became an actual fact. That principle had been accepted but it was not yet applied everywhere in Togo. However, the National Union of Togolese women had been invited to participate in the drafting of a family code, which was now under consideration. Togolese women enjoyed a privileged position, and they were encouraged by the fact that the current UNDP Resident Representative and the Ambassador of the United States to the Government of Togo were both outstanding women. Several Togolese women had been

given important posts in the party under the present Government, and in the traditional, public, social and economic spheres of national life. The number of women teachers was increasing yearly. Nevertheless, 92 per cent of all illiterates were women, 85 per cent of whom lived in rural areas. Agriculture was the key sector of the Togolese economy. For that reason rural development was the No. 1 priority in the national development plan, which included projects to increase the productivity of women. It was therefore understandable that her delegation strongly supported the objectives of the Programme for the International Women's Year relating to rural women. It also strongly supported Economic and Social Council resolution 1856 (LVI) on the status of rural women, especially agricultural workers.

44. One of the aims of the International Women's Year was to promote détente, international peace and co-operation between States by contributing, among other things, to the struggle against foreign domination. In the view of her delegation, emphasis should be placed on the role that women should play in promoting or consolidating peace in their own country, where women were an instrument for peace and unity. If women were not good citizens at home, they would not be good international citizens, and they could not bring peace to others unless they had peace in their homes and in their hearts. In Togo, the entire nation had reason to be grateful to women, who had done so much to heal the wounds of party strife.

45. The Programme for the International Women's Year was a splendid document. Like the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it set an ideal to be attained. The essence of its application lay in the word "education", which should be along the lines indicated by UNESCO in one of its publications in response to the question "Education for what?". Education along those lines was the aim of the International Women's Year. Togo was deeply grateful to UNESCO for the substantial assistance it had received. It trusted that UNESCO would be able to increase its contribution to implement the programme for the International Women's Year. A point that would be worth study, with the assistance of UNESCO, was the position of women in ancient African civilizations and the reasons for their loss in modern times of most of the privileges they had then enjoyed, which were now being claimed by women in other continents who had never possessed them in the past.

46. Her delegation endorsed Economic and Social Council resolutions 1859 (LVI) and 1860 (LVI) on the activities of the ILO and UNESCO to promote the advancement of women. It wished to congratulate the ILO, WHO and FAO for the interesting projects relating to African women which they were undertaking under the Programme for the International Women's Year. The Economic Commission for Africa, which had been the first regional economic commission to draw up a programme to enable women to participate in development, was also to be congratulated.

47. Togo's full support for the objectives of the International Women's Year was reflected in its decision to become one of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2113/Rev.1. In that connexion, she wished to thank the Governments of the Philippines and the United States of

America for their generous contributions to the International Women's Year.

48. In conclusion, she drew attention to the question of the methods to be employed to ensure the success of the International Women's Year. The actual situation in each country and continent must be borne in mind. Another thing to which particular attention must be paid was the fact that the special task of women was to contribute to the preservation and further development of cultural values, in the spirit of General Assembly resolution 3148 (XXVIII), which emphasized the need for wide education and information activity with a view to encouraging civic responsibility for the cultural heritage, making the public aware of the social and aesthetic significance of the cultural environment, and enhancing and developing living values through free creative activity. The struggle to achieve equality would be hard, but in Togo at least it would be a peaceful struggle. The aim would be to instill in both men and women the idea of their complementarity and joint responsibility. When they had achieved equality with men, women could help to build a better world, but only if they remained true to themselves as women.

49. Miss LOPEZ (Venezuela) said that the entry of women into fields which had hitherto been reserved exclusively for men was a progressive process and it went hand in hand with education and training. That aim was being achieved at all levels and in all the Latin American countries, but progress had been neither easy nor rapid. Within the United Nations, the role of women was to speed up decision-making and the implementation of the decisions at the national, regional and international levels. For that reason her delegation attached very great importance to the International Women's Year and the programme of activities connected with it.

50. For Latin American women, the International Women's Year only marked the beginning of a whole series of activities to integrate women in the social and economic life of their countries. The Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and the Deputy Director-in-Charge of the Promotion of Equality of Men and Women Branch, who had both spoken at the 2071st meeting, had given useful guidance with regard to the activities which women would undertake for the International Women's Year.

51. Her delegation had carefully studied the resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-sixth session and fully supported the provisions with regard to the influence of mass communication media, the role of UNESCO to promote the advancement of women, technical co-operation activities for the advancement of women, the legal capacity of married women and on measures for the implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, and of related instruments. Resolution 1855 (LVI), on the implementation of a programme of concerted international action to promote the advancement of women and their integration in development, was of particular interest to her delegation since it placed the question of the equality of women in the general context of development, although it limited itself to requesting reports and appraisals and did not lay down guidelines for the actual integration of

women in the development programmes undertaken by the United Nations.

52. Thanks to the International Women's Year, it would be possible to broaden the directives laid down by the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council and transform them into national plans.

53. As to draft resolution A/C.3/L.2113/Rev.1, of which her delegation was a sponsor, she expressed the hope that it would command unanimous support because it drew the attention of the organizations of the United Nations system to the importance of the International Women's Year and because it assured the continuation of the activities by recommending the inclusion of goals and projects for women in the national development plans and country programmes of Member States, so as to train and equip women to make a greater contribution to and become more fully integrated in the economic and social life of the nation.

54. The Venezuelan Government was anxious to increase women's participation in the national life. In March 1974, a women's advisory committee to the office of the President of the Republic had been set up to appraise the legal, economic and social status of women. The Committee was responsible for preparing pilot programmes and suggestions for promoting a greater participation of women in national life, collecting and analysing studies and inquiries by the public and the private sector, and studying and co-ordinating the restructuring and centralization of the general services and programmes for women. The Committee also participated in drawing up practical norms to govern the planning and execution of the various programmes for women at the national level. The Committee had set up a special committee for the International Women's Year along the lines indicated by the General Assembly, and a long-term programme for 1975 to 1980 had been drawn up. Committees were now being set up at the state level for the same purpose.

55. Her delegation would vote for draft resolution A/C.3/L.2117. It had only just received draft resolution A/C.3/L.2118/Rev.1 and had had no opportunity to study it; Venezuela would support it provided that it did not involve any financial implications for the Organization.

56. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia), referring to draft resolutions A/C.3/L.2113/Rev.1, A/C.3/L.2117 and A/C.3/L.2118/Rev.1, recalled his statement at the 2073rd meeting that the question of women's rights should be considered qualitatively and not quantitatively because women throughout the world, whatever their culture and background, already enjoyed a great many privileges and rights. Men were not denying them those privileges and rights but were affirming them, and women were now trying to deprive men of their rights. An international conference to be held during the International Women's Year would have a disruptive effect on many time-honoured social institutions in many countries. Some of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2117, which requested the Secretary-General to convene in 1975 an international conference during that Year, were from Western countries, which considered themselves to be wiser than developing countries because they had a higher standard of living, but

others were from developing countries and had obviously been influenced by the high standards of living and luxuries of the Western countries. However, Western society was decadent and in dire economic straits because of the careless way of life of its people and it was unwise for the developing countries to imitate it. Reforms of all kinds should come from within the developing countries' cultures, rather than from the influence of corrupt Western society, where women were in no way inferior to men, although they imagined that men denied them equal rights and opportunities. Thus, he urged representatives of African, Asian and Latin American countries not to tamper with their institutions in exchange for the decadence of Western society. They should study and analyse the meaning of the draft resolutions under consideration and the effect those draft resolutions would have on their countries, where women already had many rights and privileges.

57. With regard to draft resolution A/C.3/L.2117, he said that the second preambular paragraph was extremely long and that the reference to the involvement of women in "eliminating racism and racial discrimination" at the end of the paragraph had nothing to do with the International Women's Year conference. Moreover, that paragraph called for the participation of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, but many countries did not have non-governmental organizations and in the Conference there would therefore be a balance in favour of countries that did have such organizations.

58. Noting that operative paragraph 4 of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2118/Rev.1 requested the Secretary-General to convene a consultative committee to advise him on the preparation of an international plan of action to be completed by the international conference, he said his delegation was of the opinion that the convening of such a consultative committee, which would have to be financed before the Conference itself could be financed, would be ruinous for the United Nations. His delegation would therefore abstain in the vote on draft resolutions A/C.3/L.2113/Rev.1, A/C.3/L.2117 and A/C.3/L.2118/Rev.1.

59. Mr. HUSSAMY (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in explanation of his delegation's vote on draft resolution A/C.3/L.2111/Rev.1, which had been adopted at the 2074th meeting, said that, in view of the contradictory explanations of vote on that draft resolution and, in particular, on the first preambular paragraph, his delegation wished to explain that it understood the first preambular paragraph to mean that the alternative approaches referred to did not include the creation of a post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. His delegation considered that the idea of the creation of such a post had been abandoned as a result of the adoption of General Assembly resolution 3136 (XXVIII).

60. Miss CAO-PINNA (Italy) said it was certain that all women, regardless of their status and their level of success, had been or were subject to discrimination in one way or another. The few women who had reached the highest levels of success might believe that there had been no discrimination against them, but their success was in fact the result of greater efforts than those made by men in

similar situations. Moreover, the success of such women was welcomed with surprise and they were considered as exceptions to the rule. Obviously, such surprise was an expression of a negative attitude with regard to the potential of women.

61. At the other extreme, there were large numbers of women who had very limited opportunities for advancement. In some situations, they might not even realize that their status should be different from what it was and that in itself was a confirmation of the fact that there had been and was discrimination against them. That discrimination could be eliminated only through a process of change in general attitudes towards women. As with any change in attitudes, that process would develop slowly and would need to be encouraged at every level. Her delegation was of the opinion that the International Women's Year should be seen not as a miraculous solution to the problem, but as an intensive concentration of efforts to speed up the process of change to which she had just referred. Efforts had to be made not only by women, but by all responsible sectors of society,

62. With regard to Italy's preparations for the Programme for the International Women's Year and for participation in the international conference to be held in June 1975, she said that her country had already informed the Secretary-General about the action it had taken so far. Two positive results had already been achieved. First, systematic relations of a permanent nature or for the Year itself had been established between the public and private sectors. Second, all women's organizations, which, because of the variety of their institutional aims and ideological positions, had been operating in isolation, had been brought together to plan for the International Women's Year. Those two results encouraged the hope that, after the International Women's Year, relations between public administrations and women's organizations and relations among those organizations themselves would develop on a regular basis and ensure the necessary continuity of democratic action on behalf of the advancement of women.

63. In July 1974, a national committee for the Year presided over by a woman member of the Government had been established by the office of the Prime Minister. Its composition was similar to that of the committee established in Norway, described by that country's representative at the 2072nd meeting. Thus, it included representatives of all interested ministries, women's associations, political parties and trade unions. The task of the committee was to promote and co-ordinate Italian activities for the International Women's Year. Another relevant feature of Italian preparations for the Year was the establishment by the Ministry of Labour of a permanent national committee for the problems of women workers. That body also included representatives of women's associations and trade unions. Similar initiatives were being taken or considered by the Ministries of Justice and Health. Their functions were of a consultative nature and they would carry out studies on the status of women in all fields. Moreover, in all sectors where preparations for the Year were being made, arrangements were also being made for linking their work with the mass media, particularly radio and television.

64. It had already been decided that a special stamp would be issued for the International Women's Year and it was almost certain that the main activities suggested in the international Programme would be included in Italy's national programme. Among those activities, particular importance was being attached to the proclamation of the Year at the highest level and to the convening of a national conference.

65. Her delegation welcomed the appointment of the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs as Secretary-General of the Conference to be held during the International Women's Year. Her country was waiting to be informed about the agenda of the Conference and the organization of its work. It therefore expressed the hope that detailed information would be communicated to Governments as soon as possible.

66. Her delegation was a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2113/Rev.1 and was considering draft resolutions A/C.3/L.2117 and A/C.3/L.2118/Rev.1 with particular attention, but had not yet decided on a final position on them.

67. Miss CABALLERO (Mexico) said that her delegation wished to congratulate the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs on her appointment as Secretary-General in charge of the activities to be carried out during the International Women's Year, including the international conference.

68. Mexico had welcomed with enthusiasm the decision of the General Assembly to make intensive efforts, at both the national and international levels, to improve the status of women by proclaiming 1975 as International Women's Year. In December 1970, the President of Mexico had stated that women had already demonstrated their ability to enrich the cultural, economic and political life of Mexico and that, consequently, he intended to promote the full exercise of the creative abilities of women so that all Mexicans, men and women alike, would have equal rights, duties and opportunities. In accordance with that promise, the President of Mexico had stated in September 1974 in the Congress that it was necessary to eliminate the barriers which prevented women from taking an active part in political, economic and social life and which therefore hampered Mexico's over-all development. A full review of Mexico's federal laws was being carried out with a view to putting before the Congress bills providing for the elimination of all vestiges of discrimination against women, but the system of dependence and domination which still characterized relations between men and women could not be eliminated simply by the adoption of legal instruments. It was also necessary for men and women to rid themselves of all mental attitudes which made that unjustified situation possible. The achievement of the full integration of women into Mexican life also required a collective effort to change the old traditions which reduced the scope of women's activities. Women must also use their will, intelligence and enthusiasm to overcome obstacles at the professional level since it was not enough for them to have equal rights if their creative abilities remained untapped. In other words, *de jure* equality served no purpose unless it was accompanied by *de facto* equality. In accordance with that policy, the President of Mexico had proposed that the international

community should consider the possibility of a code, namely, a Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States (see General Assembly resolution 3082 (XXVIII)), which would serve as a basis for the establishment of a more equitable economic order and for the achievement of equality among States.

69. She was of the opinion that women must assume the responsibility and duty of co-operating with men in the creation of a better and more equitable world in which peace would prevail. In order to play such an important role, women must be increasingly better prepared and it was therefore important that the same attention should be given to their education as to that of men. It was for that reason that her delegation had welcomed the amendment which had been submitted to that effect by the representative of Sierra Leone in document A/C.3/L.2115 and accepted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2113.

70. If women were to engage in activities outside the home, they would have to strive to acquire the necessary training for employment and for the fulfilment of their responsibilities, but they must not forget that nature had given them the gift of maternity and they must therefore also be prepared for their role as wives and mothers. Thus, one of the constitutional amendments proposed by the executive branch of her Government to the legislative branch provided that men and women were equal before the law and that women were to protect the organization and development of the family. All persons had the right to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children. That amendment to the Constitution had been proposed so that parents might plan their families. Family planning was essential to the improvement of the status of women and would enable them to carry out their responsibilities in society and at home.

71. The importance her country attached to the International Women's Year was demonstrated by the fact that a high Government official had been appointed as the general co-ordinator of the Mexican programme for the International Women's Year. Preparations for that programme would be completed at the end of October 1974 and included the participation of federal, state and municipal authorities and, in particular, groups and associations of men and women whose activities would be related to the theme of equality, development and peace. The programme would be political, economic, social and educational in nature and would include a review of the results thus far achieved and the formulation of short-, medium- and long-term plans designed to integrate women into the active life of the country.

72. As a woman who had had the opportunity to attend university and exercise a profession, she whole-heartedly welcomed the efforts being made at the national and international levels so that an increasingly larger number of women in all countries might take part in the creative work of achieving peace and prosperity for the benefit of all human beings. She hoped, however, that the new woman taking part in those efforts would never forget that she was a woman, or give up the privileges and duties of her sex. Her Government understood the importance of women in the life of a country, but considered that their integration into social, cultural, economic and political life would not

be achieved only through the adoption of international decisions. Such decisions had, however, been fully supported by Mexico in various international organizations because it was aware that its development effort would not be possible without the contribution of women.

73. Referring to the programme of family guidance recently established in Mexico to bring about the integration of the family and, in particular, the rural family through the implementation of health, education and training measures, she said that the purpose of that

programme was to promote the social and economic development of rural areas. The objectives of the programme would be announced to the Secretary-General in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3010 (XXVII) relating to the International Women's Year.

74. Her country was deeply honoured by the acceptance of its offer to act as host to the international conference to be held during the International Women's Year.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.

2076th meeting

Wednesday, 30 October 1974, at 3.40 p.m.

Chairman: Mrs. Aminata MARICO (Mali).

A/C.3/SR.2076

In the absence of the Chairman, Miss Dubra (Uruguay), Vice-Chairman, took the chair.

AGENDA ITEM 12

Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapters III (sections D to F), IV (section J), V (sections A to C, D, paragraphs 436 to 478, 487 to 492 and 494 to 506, and E), VI (sections A.1 to 5 and 7, E and G) and VII (sections 1 to 3)] (continued) (A/9603, A/9637, A/9707, A/9733, A/9764, A/9767, A/9785, A/C.3/L.2113/Rev.1, 2117, 2118/Rev.1)

1. The CHAIRMAN announced that Trinidad and Tobago and the United Republic of Tanzania had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2113/Rev.1 and that France and Norway had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2118/Rev.1, both of which concerned the International Women's Year.

2. Mr. DASHKEVIC (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) commended the work of the Commission on the Status of Women aimed at eliminating the discrimination against women which still existed in many countries in various forms and at ensuring genuine equal rights between men and women in all areas of public life. The Commission's resolution 1 (XXV)¹ on the preparation of a comprehensive convention to eliminate discrimination against women deserved particular attention. The adoption of that important document would undoubtedly be a very effective step towards the final elimination of that outworn vestige of the past, discrimination against women.

3. His delegation was very much in favour of the adoption of a declaration on the protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict, as called for in Economic and Social Council resolution 1861 (LVI), and felt that although that question had been referred to the Sixth Committee, the Third Committee should also consider it. The adoption of such a declaration by the General

Assembly would be in conformity with the spirit and letter of the Charter and the aims of the United Nations.

4. His delegation supported and approved the basic measures in the Programme for the International Women's Year (Economic and Social Council resolution 1849 (LVI), annex). The theme of the Year—equality, development and peace—would have great significance in increasing the participation of the women of the world in the social and economic life of their countries and in involving them more widely in the struggle for peace and détente, for the elimination of the vestiges of colonialism and racism, and for freedom, national independence and the social progress of peoples. The International Women's Year would undoubtedly give new impetus to the adoption of measures aimed at the elimination of all types of discrimination against women, which unfortunately still existed in various countries of the world.

5. The shameful phenomenon of discrimination against women had long ago been fully eliminated in the Ukrainian SSR. The Great October Socialist Revolution had completely emancipated women and granted them equal rights with men in all spheres of activity. The rights of women were guaranteed in the Constitution and also in the legislation deriving from it. Soviet women participated widely in the life of the nation and had taken their place in socialist society on a footing of equality with men. Participation in social labour was a very important factor in the personal development of all women. In 1973, 57.8 per cent of the specialists in the Ukrainian SSR had been women. Women were working in areas which had been traditionally reserved for men, particularly in occupations with attractive conditions of work and also in new and developing areas such as radio electronics, electric power and precision instrument design. The mastery of complex contemporary technology by women so that they could participate in engineering and technical activities alongside men constituted one of the great triumphs of socialism. Women were also participating increasingly in the development of science, culture and art. Every year increasing numbers of women were attracted to active participation in

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 4, chap. XII.*