

## 2078th meeting

Friday, 1 November 1974, at 10.45 a.m.

*Chairman:* Mrs. Aminata MARICO (Mali).

A/C.3/SR.2078

### 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, 2121-2125)**

1. Mr. GHAUSSY (Afghanistan) emphasized the importance of the International Women's Year to all who were striving to achieve the full integration of women in the development of their countries. In its resolution 3010 (XXVII), the General Assembly had established as the themes of International Women's Year equality, development and peace. Each country should interpret those themes in the light of its particular cultural context and its level of development. The developing countries, for their part, were confronted with special problems in that area and required international co-operation in order to overcome them.

2. There could be no doubt that all national or international action in the human rights field could only be successful with the full participation of women since women constituted half the world's population. It was almost impossible to reform human institutions without the participation of women and for that purpose, women had to enjoy equal rights with men. Moreover, equality of rights, opportunities and responsibilities could not be achieved without freedom, that is, without women being equal to men.

3. In Afghanistan, women had achieved equal status in 1958. In 1975, the authorities and organizations concerned, in co-operation with the various competent ministries and agencies, would adopt a series of initiatives such as the publication of summaries of women's activities and the organization of seminars in various cities. In Afghanistan, women enjoyed the same political, social, economic and cultural rights as men. They had held and continued to hold government office in the executive, legislative and judicial branches. The goal of the present Government was to eliminate discrimination against women and there were also a number of voluntary organizations working to achieve that end.

4. Finally, the Afghanistan delegation had sponsored draft resolution A/C.3/L.2113/Rev.1 and hoped that it would be adopted unanimously. With regard to draft resolution A/C.3/L.2118/Rev.1, it felt that there would have to be further consultation in order to achieve more efficient co-ordination for the international conference during the International Women's Year but it also supported that text, as well as the amendments in document A/C.3/L.2125 to draft resolution A/C.3/L.2117.

5. Mr. BASCIO (Grenada) said that when God created man and woman, he made them incomplete, but not in the same way. He left man insatiable, tormented, striving to build and improve things. Woman, on the other hand, lacked the ability to awaken herself and needed the touch of a man. The completion of men and women required nothing more and nothing less than their mutual love. Any discussion of the unquestionable need to assure women the same social and legal rights as men enjoyed should not lose sight of the important fact that there could be no home, family or love without women.

6. In recent years, women had clearly proved that they were equal to men. The heroic struggle of the people of Guinea-Bissau against colonialism and racism could not have borne fruit without the participation of women in the armed combat. It was impossible to read reports about the People's Republic of China without becoming convinced that the liberation of women in China had reached an advanced stage. Furthermore, in the Soviet Union, 59 per cent of the doctors were women. A special tribute was also due to the women of the United Republic of Tanzania, a country where he had spent the first years of his priesthood: in 1967, President Nyerere had said that in the days to come, the Tanzanian people would be able to assist other peoples in their national development; Tanzanian women were now doing just that.

7. His delegation was especially pleased to make reference to Mrs. McIntyre, Permanent Representative of Grenada to the United Nations, whose maiden speech in the General Assembly at the 2251st plenary meeting had been warmly received. Moreover, as the Prime Minister of Grenada had told the General Assembly at its 2233rd plenary meeting, Grenada was the first and only country in the British Commonwealth in which a woman had been appointed Governor on the recommendation of the Head of Government, and the first to provide in its Constitution that women should have the same rights as men, particularly in relation to citizenship.

8. Mrs. BERTRAND DE BROMLEY (Honduras) stressed the importance which her country attached to abolishing discrimination against women, which was more deeply rooted, more subtle and more difficult to identify than racial or religious discrimination. She was therefore highly gratified to see that international efforts to promote full rights for women were being intensified with the proclamation of the year 1975 as International Women's Year and the convening of an international conference. Honduras planned to introduce the theme of the International Year in its teaching curricula and to give it prominence in press, radio and television.

9. There had been vast changes in the status of women in the twentieth century. The two world wars had highlighted

the potential of women and women like Indira Gandhi, Golda Meir and María Estela de Perón had risen to leadership and were guiding the destinies of their peoples. But much remained to be done before women were fully integrated at all levels. That goal could be prompted, particularly in the developing countries, by disseminating knowledge on family planning and information on the rights which women already had under law, of which many people were unaware.

10. Discrimination was always difficult to eradicate, as was clearly seen within the Committee itself, where statements were still being made which referred to the traditional privileges of the female sex, biological differences and indirect power. It should be clear by now that women were seeking not indirect privileges but the rights to which they were entitled as human beings. To speak of indirect power in the context of the relations between men and women was somewhat unethical, since it was suggested that it was sufficient for the woman to exert indirect and artificial influence; there could be no honest relationship as long as it was necessary to use artifices, not only in relations between men and women but in any human relationship. Discrimination would not disappear, nor would there be well-being in the world so long as there was no genuine co-operation among all human beings on a basis of equality.

11. The CHAIRMAN announced that the delegations of Guinea and the United Republic of Cameroon had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2118/Rev.1.

12. Mrs. HØRUP KNUDSEN (Denmark) expressed support for the efforts aimed at recruiting and promoting women to high-level posts within the secretariats of the United Nations system, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3009 (XXVII) and Economic and Social Council resolution 1857 (LVI). Her delegation also welcomed draft resolution A/C.3/L.2113/Rev.1, which it considered important for the purpose of accelerating the full integration of women into the over-all development effort.

13. In Denmark any discrimination on grounds of sex had been formally eliminated, but the situation was different in respect of *de facto* equality of men and women. A committee set up by the Prime Minister in 1965 to study the question of the status of women in society had come to the conclusion that there was still a considerable *de facto* difference in the status of men and women. Women were less well educated, few women held managerial posts and numerically the representation of women in Government was on a modest scale. A large proportion of married women in active employment had to perform the majority of household duties. The existence of adequate child-care facilities was a prerequisite for enabling women to play a full role in economic and public life.

14. In order to attain the goal of a society of individuals rather than a man's society with occasional participation by women on terms set by men, women had to make themselves better qualified and to assume responsibility on an equal footing with men. If *de facto* equality was to be attained, society must regard women and men as equals and abandon stereotypes, and men must learn to participate

on an equal footing in the care of the family. All the factors which in everyday life tended to confine women to a subordinate role should be eliminated. The Danish women's organizations were making intensive efforts to make women conscious of their responsibilities and rights and to achieve the *de facto* integration of women in society as full and equal partners of men.

15. Denmark would observe the International Women's Year at the national level as well as by participation in regional and international events. Negotiations were under way between the Government of Denmark and the National Council of Women concerning a programme of action which envisaged, *inter alia*, the establishment of a council of equality, the adoption of various concrete measures and the organization of seminars and conferences at the regional level. Arrangements had been made with the Danish International Development Agency for the holding of an information course for members of the executive committees of Danish associations on the status of women in developing countries, a seminar would be held in Denmark for women from a number of West African countries and the broadcasting of radio and television programmes on the status of women in Denmark and other countries was under consideration, as was the presentation of works by women artists. In the international sphere, Denmark intended to participate in the Conference to be held in June 1975 and would endeavour to send a delegation representative of the population.

16. With regard to the draft Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,<sup>1</sup> which had been considered by the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-fifth session, her delegation had read with interest the report of the Working Group presented to the Commission and approved of the decision that a comprehensive draft convention should be prepared without prejudice to the preparation of any future instrument or instruments dealing with discrimination in specific fields.<sup>2</sup>

17. Miss VAKALALA (Fiji) said that, as was the case with any other programme, the effectiveness of the Programme for the International Women's Year (Economic and Social Council resolution 1849 (LVI), annex), which the women's organizations in Fiji were currently discussing, could only be assessed at the time of its application. Fiji had provided for equality between the sexes in its Constitution, which recognized the equality of all persons and prohibited discrimination. Thus women in Fiji enjoyed the right to vote and to be elected at all levels. With regard to employment, the Fiji Government, which was the largest single employer in the country, had recently proclaimed all its married women officers permanent as opposed to the previous law which had required all women officers in the Fiji public service to resign upon marriage and to be transferred to the temporary establishment. Also, women received equal pay with men in the Fiji civil services. In the private sector there were five wage councils in operation covering employment in five industries. None of the Wages Regulations Orders provided for different rates of wages or

<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 4, para. 91.*

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 3.

conditions of employment for men or women. Apart from the Wages Regulations Orders, wages in the private sector were determined by collective bargaining arrangements, the terms of which, being extremely varied, could not be specified. However, there was reason to believe that the principle of equal wages was achieving general acceptance. Furthermore, Fiji legislation prohibited the employment of women at night, except in certain circumstances, in any industrial undertaking. Women were also entitled to an allowance during confinement, provided they met certain requirements.

18. In Fiji an increasing number of women were entering decision-making jobs, but there were still too few of them and most women were still assigned to jobs customarily regarded as women's work. In that connexion, it must be borne in mind that a person's future was conditioned by education. Also, older men and women were less inclined to accept women leaders. Nevertheless, conditions were improving, and it was to be hoped that, with the change in education, the younger generation could also change that situation.

19. Rural women supplemented the family income as they engaged in small-scale industries, such as handicrafts, and fishing. The Co-operatives Department had been helping to find markets for their products. Moreover, the Government was providing health, educational and other facilities in the rural areas, in order to promote the development of women and prevent an exodus to the cities.

20. Her Government placed considerable emphasis on the importance of family planning, not only from the standpoint of economic and social development, but also from that of its bearing on the status of women. A family planning association had been established in Fiji in 1963 and was now rendering maternal and child welfare services and informing the general public regarding the family planning programme. The programme had proved very effective in practice. It was to be hoped, as more and more women became educated and economically independent and were able to decide their family size, they would find time to enter a profession and become actively involved in social and economic development.

21. Mrs. MOHAPELOA (Lesotho) stressed the importance of the International Women's Year for the small countries that had recently been freed from the yoke of colonialism. The emancipation and development of peoples would not be attained if women did not play their part in the process. It was for that reason that her delegation had sponsored draft resolution A/C.3/L.2113/Rev.1.

22. In Lesotho, as a result of historical circumstances, women enjoyed the same rights as men and at the present time there were many women holding political positions. She acknowledged, however, that women still had disadvantages in certain spheres and her Government was enacting appropriate legislation to do away with some of them. Lesotho was mainly an agricultural country, but most of the men worked in the mines, leaving to women the responsibility for farming and generally managing family affairs. Lesotho had a high literacy rate because of the large female enrolment in schools at all levels and more and more women were taking up professions which had traditionally

been reserved for men. That was not surprising, considering that the ratio of women to men was four to one.

23. Women in Lesotho received equal pay for equal work. For the past years, women had actively contributed, with voluntary work, to self-help projects set up by the Government. Women had organized themselves into clubs, societies and associations, where they shared experiences and helped each other. Those clubs dealt with business matters, health, agriculture and education, and it had been her Government's policy to assist them materially, technically and financially where possible.

24. In connexion with the promotion of the rights and interests of women in 1975, the Lesotho Government was in the process of formulating a project for the welfare of women which was aimed at promoting the fuller participation of women in national development. To that end, it hoped to receive the assistance of the United Nations Office of Technical Co-operation.

25. The CHAIRMAN announced that Togo and the Libyan Arab Republic had joined the sponsors of the amendments published in A/C.3/L.2125 and that Bangladesh and Gabon wished to join in sponsoring draft resolution A/C.3/L.2113/Rev.1.

26. Mrs. KINYANJUI (Kenya) said that the influence of modern technology had changed the position of women in the third world, where they had traditionally played a major role in the society both in the home and in agricultural labour. Such activities had customarily been left to women, as a result of which they had occupied an honoured position and exerted power and influence. The status of women should be adapted to change without sacrificing traditional moral and cultural values for the sake of so-called western civilization.

27. During the colonial administration, the few facilities for education and employment which were available in Kenya had been accessible mainly to men. During the struggle for independence, the women of Kenya had taken an active part in the liberation of their country and had shared with men the punishment inflicted by the colonial Government. It was only fair, therefore, that women should now enjoy the fruits of independence for which they had fought so hard. On achieving independence the men, having more education, had assumed the important roles in the country. Nevertheless, since then women had increasingly advanced in education and politics, exercising their right of freedom of choice in marriage and taking advantage of employment opportunities. Far from being limited to jobs traditionally held by women, Kenyan women had entered the liberal professions and were even serving in the army.

28. The International Women's Year was expected to mark the launching of a new era in the development and integration of women in all spheres of economic, social and cultural development. Kenya, as an agricultural society, would place special emphasis on rural areas, where the majority of farm workers were women. Urban and rural co-operatives would be organized to help integrate women into the marketing and trade of the country as a whole. The International Year would be celebrated in all the provinces and all women's organizations were expected to make

reports on their contributions to self-help projects and charitable organizations. Rural women's self-help projects would be reviewed. Churches would observe the Year with prayers, and a booklet highlighting some of the achievements of women since independence would be issued. A women's advisory committee was expected to be established in 1975 which would help to evaluate the contribution made by women thus far to the various sectors of development. It would also study specific areas in which women's participation should be initiated or strengthened. It was evident that the contribution of women to development was great, although there were some traditional restrictions and attitudes which had to be overcome. Her delegation was confident that the objectives and goals of the International Women's Year would be successfully achieved.

29. Mr. DURAN (Chile) said that his country, as a member of the Commission on the Status of Women, had actively contributed to all the activities sponsored by the United Nations for the advancement of women. It also fully supported the Programme for the International Women's Year and endorsed the goals of that noble undertaking. Chile was proud of the intellectual development of its women; over the years the universities had accepted an increasing number of women students who took courses in practically every branch of learning. Chilean women had distinguished themselves in many professions, including university teaching, and had held many posts in public life. Moreover, Chilean women had advanced not only because of their education and professional competence, but also because of the quality of their efforts to secure recognition of their rights and to be accepted in all sectors of society, not because of sentimental consideration but as a matter of reason and logic, in acknowledgement of their important contribution to the development of the country.

30. A tribute should also be paid to women for their role as housewives. They should be honoured not only because of their professional successes, but also by virtue of their role as pillars of the family who held the home together and developed civic maturity in their children.

31. The role of women as mothers and wives was a most important one. Likewise, their position in the front lines should not be overlooked, for it brought them into direct contact with reality and enabled them to understand what the concept of one's country meant and how they should contribute to it. From that position they had awakened the men to an awareness of the danger that had threatened the spiritual life of Chile and, arousing the people with the noise of pots and pans, had led them along the way to freedom. He was confident that the human race was on the threshold of a new era in which the fundamental value of the gentleness of women would be recognized.

32. Mrs. WU Yi-yu (China) said that the emancipation of women, who accounted for half of the world's population and therefore represented a great force that was not to be neglected, was a common cause of all mankind. After referring to the suffering, misery and social inferiority of women in old China, she noted that their plight, like that of the people as a whole, had been caused first of all by the aggression, exploitation and oppression of imperialism and colonialism and their agents in China. In addition, women

had been bound by the deep-rooted traditional concept of male superiority. Chinese women had formed the lowest stratum of society under the wretched conditions prevailing in the country before the socialist revolution. But women had made a decisive contribution to national liberation and had actively participated in the democratic and socialist revolution in all its historical periods.

33. With the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, the working people had become the masters of the country, and women, enjoying equal rights in political, economic, cultural and social life, had given invaluable assistance to the development process. A Marriage Law promulgated in 1950 had abolished the system of arranged and forced marriages. The Labour Insurance Regulations issued in 1951 provided that working women should be protected, that equal pay for equal work should be the rule for both men and women, and that in the assignment of work to women physiological considerations should be duly taken into account. The Electoral Law promulgated in the same year stipulated in particular that women should have the right to elect and to be elected on equal terms with men.

34. The rapid development of the social economy and cultural progress offered ever-increasing opportunities to women, who were playing an important role in socialist construction. Women had changed their subordinate status and the mental outlook which had previously relegated them to the margins of society. Many women were occupying key posts in the Chinese Communist Party and important central government organs, and in local government departments, factories, communes and schools. They participated fully in the task of socialist construction in China, the only exception being those jobs which were physically unsuitable for women. No discrimination of any kind was allowed. The Party and the Government paid great attention to the protection of women, and in order to facilitate their work and protect the health of women and children an increasing number of day-care centres and kindergartens had been set up. Family planning was being promoted, and in the family the sharing of housework by men and women was encouraged. However, the legacy of the past could not be totally eliminated within a short period, and continued education and struggle were necessary. At present, the entire Chinese people were taking part in a campaign to eradicate every vestige of the old feudal society based on slavery and exploitation, and the change in outlook would have a far-reaching influence on the complete emancipation of women.

35. While engaged in the socialist construction of their motherland, Chinese women were closely following the efforts of women in other countries and were pleased to note that an increasing number of women in developed countries had plunged themselves into the struggle against colonialism and hegemonism and for women's rights. In the third world countries, women had won new victories in their struggle to attain national independence, defend State sovereignty and develop the national economy and culture. The existence of imperialism and colonialism continued to weigh heavily on the peoples of some countries, and women were the principal victims. The International Women's Year should represent the united struggle of the women of all countries against imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism,

in order to win and safeguard national independence and sovereignty, economic rights and interests, democracy and women's liberation. However, the representatives of a super-Power were advertising everywhere that only what they called "lasting peace and security" and "détente" could open up prospects for the attainment of women's basic rights, ignoring the obvious fact that in the present world situation no liberation movement, including that of women, could succeed without a determined struggle against imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism.

36. However, some third world countries had recognized the important role played by women in the struggle against colonialism and for national independence. Some representatives had proposed that women from the national liberation movements should be invited to participate in the international conference to be held during the International Women's Year. Many representatives had called for the promotion of social progress, equality between men and women and the enhancement of the status of women. Those appeals reflected the legitimate demands and aspirations of the women of various countries, and they had the firm and whole-hearted support of the Chinese delegation.

37. Mr. NTEZILIZAZA (Rwanda) expressed whole-hearted support for General Assembly resolution 3010 (XXVII), proclaiming 1975 International Women's Year with the theme of equality, development and peace. In a constantly changing world, no pride could be taken in development if human values were forgotten and discrimination and the oppression of peoples were allowed to continue. The Government of Rwanda had already made plans for the adoption of the provisions necessary for achieving the goals set forth in the Programme for the International Women's Year, and all countries should take advantage of the opportunity to promote equality between the sexes, ensure the effective participation of women in development efforts and show recognition of their role in relations among peoples for the cause of world peace.

38. The Constitution of Rwanda established the equality of all citizens before the law, without distinction as to race, clan, colour, sex or religion. Women enjoyed the same rights as men and had the same duties to the nation. With reference to education, the old mentality of encouraging education for boys rather than girls had been overcome. Primary education was free and compulsory for girls and boys. In 12 years, the percentage of girls attending secondary school had increased from less than 10 per cent in 1962, the year of Rwanda's independence, to over 40 per cent. In rural communities there were social centres under the supervision of women who sought to promote the status of women through courses in home economics, sewing, environmental hygiene and literacy. Radio Rwanda allotted broadcasting time for documentaries on the role of women, especially those engaged in agricultural work in rural areas, where a large part of the female population lived. Taking into account the contribution of rural women to the national income, the President of Rwanda had proclaimed 1974 Agriculture Year for all the people of Rwanda. With reference to employment, women occupied important posts in the public and private sectors. The Rwandese Civil Service Regulations provided for three months' maternity leave.

39. The problem of the emancipation of women clearly assumed different forms in different continents, regions and countries, and in developed and developing countries. There could be no universal formula, and all action programmes must take into account economic, social and cultural conditions and the administrative and legislative structures of each country. Nor would good programmes alone be sufficient to raise the level of living of the people; the necessary resources must also be found. For that reason, his delegation felt that the International Women's Year could represent an opportunity for the wealthy countries to help the less wealthy to combat ignorance, disease and hunger, bearing in mind that women and children were the first victims of those evils.

40. His delegation would vote for draft resolution A/C.3/L.2113/Rev.1 and A/C.3/L.2117. The amendments contained in document A/C.3/L.2125 also had the support of his delegation, as did draft resolution A/C.3/L.2118/Rev.1.

41. Mr. SOLOMON (Ethiopia) said that in his country women had occupied important positions in social, cultural, economic and political life. They had exercised their right to form mutual aid associations, and there were a variety of women's groups throughout the country. Historically, mention should be made of Queen Helena, Empress Taihitu and Empress Zewditu. In more recent times, women of a different standing had endured the hardship and deprivations of enemy occupation and many had gained fame and admiration for their active participation in the struggle against fascism. Economically, Ethiopian women played an important role in both traditional and modern sectors. Agriculture was the main activity in rural areas, where the majority of the people lived, and women helped with agricultural work and animal husbandry and had, therefore, quasi-equal status with men. In modern sectors, women were engaged in all types of occupations.

42. The first Constitution of Ethiopia had assured equal rights for all under the law, and the revised Constitution of 1955 had guaranteed equal rights, including the right of women to elect and be elected to the Parliament. However, the weight of traditions, customs and religion sometimes produced situations which rendered civil laws ineffective. For instance, the Moslem woman was compelled to forfeit her civil liberties as a result of disparities that existed between the judiciary on the one hand and the traditional court, known as *Kafir*, on the other.

43. Nevertheless, the tremendous impact of Ethiopian women in the areas of education, welfare, business and agriculture was beyond dispute.

44. Ethiopian law did not discriminate between men and women with regard to the holding of public office, and there were women occupying posts as ministers, vice-ministers and directors and other high positions. Although at present there were no women judges or lawyers, those women who had studied law were actively working in their profession in Government and in private sectors. In the field of health much remained to be done, there being only seven women doctors and five women health officers in the country.

45. The law guaranteed boys and girls equal rights to education, but unfortunately the schools could accommodate only a small proportion of the population, and the number of girl students was still far below that of boys. There was hope that the proportion would increase as the educational system expanded. The obstacles encountered were due not to the law but to social attitudes, cultural factors and, above all, economic reasons. In rural areas, girls were expected to help their mothers in household and agricultural tasks and were often removed from school for early marriage. In recent years, however, parents had begun to realize the importance of education for girls, and the social attitude was gradually changing.

46. The Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (General Assembly resolution 2263 (XXII)) certainly represented one of the most significant advances made by the United Nations. Yet much still remained to be done. The emancipation of women was directly linked with the socio-economic and political advancement of each country. The situation in the poor countries was still pathetic, and there were nearly 200 million people who lived in—and often died of—hunger. His delegation was not trying to undermine the noble cause of the women's movement, but rather to direct the attention of the Committee towards the realities of life in most of the developing countries.

47. In 1975, International Women's Year, Ethiopia intended to give the widest publicity to the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and to carry out a large number of the recommended activities at the national level. One of the major activities would be the translation of the Declaration into Ethiopia's national language so that it could be fully understood by all rural and urban sectors of the population.

48. Mrs. SIPILÄ (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs), referring to the preparation of the international conference to be held during the International Women's Year, said that, at its fifty-seventh session, the Economic and Social Council had approved the holding of the Conference from 23 June to 4 July 1975 (see A/9603, annex III). The question of the change of venue of the Conference from Bogotá to Mexico had been brought to the attention of the Council during its resumed fifty-seventh session and to the attention of the Fifth Committee in the course of its consideration of agenda item 77, relating to the pattern of conferences, during the current session. It was not anticipated that the change of venue would mean any change in the dates of the Conference but it would inevitably involve certain delays in the preparation of the Conference.

49. Nevertheless, the Secretariat had been going ahead with the substantive preparations for the Conference in accordance with the directives laid down in Council resolution 1851 (LVI). A draft provisional agenda had already been prepared in consultation with the specialized agencies, and the annotations were now being finalized. The three main substantive items on the agenda of the Conference were based on paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Council resolution. They would deal with: current trends and changes in the status and roles of women and men and major obstacles to be overcome in the achievement of equal

rights, opportunities and responsibilities; the integration of women in the development process as equal partners with men; and a world plan of action.

50. Basic documents on each of those three items were being prepared by the Secretariat, and the specialized agencies had agreed to contribute to the documentation. An *ad hoc* interagency meeting of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination had been held in July 1974 to discuss the Conference, and a further meeting would take place from 3 to 5 February 1975. It was planned to complete the basic documents, the invitations and the provisional agenda and to circulate them to Governments before the end of 1974 or early in 1975. It was proposed to suggest that Governments should designate four delegates to the Conference, together with alternates and advisers. The draft rules of procedure were currently being reviewed by the Secretariat services concerned.

51. Regional consultations had taken place in preparation for the Conference which had focused especially on the integration of women in development, with special reference to population factors; a further regional consultation was planned and its recommendations would be available for the Conference. In addition, the Interregional Seminar on National Machinery to Accelerate the Integration of Women in Development and to Eliminate Discrimination on Grounds of Sex had been held in Ottawa in September 1974.

52. The public information activities for the Conference were closely linked with those for the Year. In addition to the publicity measures, a journalists' encounter and a non-governmental meeting at the site of the Conference had been planned, but those plans were in an initial stage at the present time.

53. Mr. BADAWI (Egypt) introduced the amendments contained in document A/C.3/L.2125 and said that they were aimed at completing and strengthening the draft resolution contained in document A/C.3/L.2117. The International Women's Year Conference was intended to launch an international action programme. The evaluation and drafting of that programme could not be successfully undertaken in the absence of huge segments of the international community, indeed, in the absence of some of those who were most affected by the situation existing in the contemporary world. That was why the sponsors of the amendments proposed that every State and all the national liberation movements should participate in the Conference. That participation would not only ensure the success of the Conference but would correspond to the practice of the United Nations and of conferences held under its auspices. The latest action in that regard had been taken by the Sixth Committee at the current session of the General Assembly. At its 1481st meeting on 21 October 1974, during its consideration of agenda item 88, the Sixth Committee had approved by an overwhelming majority a draft resolution<sup>3</sup> inviting the national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity and/or the League of Arab States to participate in the United Nations Conference on the Representation of States in their Relations with

<sup>3</sup> Subsequently adopted by the General Assembly as resolution 3247 (XXIX).

International Organizations to be held in Vienna in 1975. That action was nothing but a continuation and reflection of the principle adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 3102 (XXVIII), by the Economic and Social Council in resolutions 1835 (LVI) and 1840 (LVI), and by the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea in rule 63 of its rules or procedure.<sup>4</sup>

54. In view of that background and the importance of the International Women's Year Conference, the sponsors of the amendments proposed the addition of a new third preambular paragraph referring to Economic and Social Council resolution 1849 (LVI), the present third preambular paragraph becoming the fourth. In the operative part, they proposed the addition of two new paragraphs taken from the Sixth Committee resolution he had mentioned.

55. To facilitate the proceedings, he proposed that the Third Committee should draw on the procedure of the Sixth Committee in adopting those two operative paragraphs, a procedure set out in summary record of the 1481st meeting of the Sixth Committee. As to the national liberation movements, the Secretary of that Committee had read out for the information of its members the list of the national liberation movements which had been accorded observer status at the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the Third Committee would support the amendments he had introduced.

56. Mrs. IDER (Mongolia), speaking on behalf of her own delegation and that of the USSR, introduced document A/C.3/L.2124, containing an amendment to draft resolution A/C.3/L.2117. The aim of that amendment was to bring draft resolution A/C.3/L.2117 more into line with the directives of the Economic and Social Council. Paragraph 32 of the annex to Council resolution 1849 (LVI), which contained the Programme for the International Women's Year, included a question entitled "Status and role of women in society, with special reference to the need to achieve equal rights for women and to women's contribution to the attainment of the goals of the Second United Nations Development Decade, to the struggle against colonialism, racism and racial discrimination and to the strengthening of international peace and of co-operation between States" which should be included in the agenda of the General Assembly at its thirtieth session. It was therefore proposed to replace operative paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2117 by the wording contained in document A/C.3/L.2124.

<sup>4</sup> See United Nations publication, Sales No. E.74.1.18.

57. Mrs. SHAHANI (Philippines) said that her delegation supported all the amendments in document A/C.3/L.2125. Speaking on behalf of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2117 and with reference to the amendment to that text submitted by Mongolia and the USSR in document A/C.3/L.2124, she proposed a subamendment to the wording of paragraph 2 proposed by the USSR and Mongolia, which would consist of adding the words "including the proposals and recommendations of the International Conference" after the words "International Women's Year". A reference to the proposals and recommendations of the International Conference was necessary in order to provide the General Assembly with a firm basis for its consideration of the item. It would be unfortunate if all the efforts made by the Conference were to be fruitless merely because the General Assembly did not give its recommendations and proposals sufficient attention.

58. Some doubts had been expressed about the advisability of operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2117, which requested the international conference to submit, if possible, such proposals and recommendations as it deemed appropriate to the General Assembly at its seventh special session. As delegations would recall, the theme of the special session as called for in General Assembly resolution 3172 (XXVIII) was development, and one of the major objectives of the Programme for the International Women's Year was social, human and economic development and women's contribution to it. At its nineteenth session in January 1975, the Governing Council of UNDP would also be considering a preliminary report on the integration of women in development. The sponsors therefore believed that operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution was relevant and should be retained.

59. The Philippine delegation was happy to note the broad support that had been given to draft resolution A/C.3/L.2113/Rev.1. As half the members of the Committee were sponsors of that draft resolution, she hoped that it would be adopted by acclamation.

60. Mr. SOLOMON (Ethiopia), referring to the amendments in document A/C.3/L.2125, introduced by Egypt, asked what national liberation movements had been recognized by the Organization of African Unity or the League of Arab States, as mentioned in that document, and whether the Djibouti Liberation Movement was among them.

61. Mrs. WARZAZI (Morocco) suggested that the Secretariat of the Committee should consult the competent authorities and announce the list of the liberation movements at the afternoon meeting.

*The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.*