

2173rd meeting

Monday, 1 December 1975, at 11.10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Ladislav ŠMÍD (Czechoslovakia).

A/C.3/SR.2173

In the absence of the Chairman, Mrs. Shahani (Philippines), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEMS 75 AND 76

International Women's Year, including the proposals and recommendations of the World Conference of the International Women's Year (continued)

Status and role of women in society, with special reference to the need for achieving 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 co-operation between States (continued) (A/10003, chap. III, sect. F; E/5725 and Add.1, A/10042, A/10045, A/10049 and Corr.1, A/10056, A/10057, A/10066, A/10070, A/10071, A/10073, A/10075, A/10076, A/10088, A/10089, A/10099, A/10107, A/10111, A/10138, A/10140, A/10160, A/10210, A/10263, A/10264, A/10340, A/C.3/643, A/C.3/644, A/C.3/L.2193-2195)

1. The CHAIRMAN announced that Colombia, Sri Lanka and the United Arab Emirates had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2193, and that Bangladesh, Cape Verde and Guinea-Bissau had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2194.

2. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) noted that women had privileges more than rights, as he had often stated in the Committee, and that it was paradoxical to see many women, especially in western society, clamouring for rights when throughout history they had always enjoyed privileges. Admittedly, there were areas, such as that of voting, in which women, in particular western women, had perhaps been unable to exercise their rights, and, in that connexion, he noted that it was not until 1918 that women had been enfranchised in the United Kingdom. However, today it seemed that the whole world wanted to ape the values of western women and to acquire what the latter claimed to be the advantages of the democratic system. He had often pointed out that democracy had been largely ritualized and that male or female suffrage was not a guarantee of good government. It was well known that Governments often did exactly what they wanted to do, regardless of the wishes of the electorate, not because Governments were guilty of bad faith, but because social and political forces prevented them from keeping their promises. It was therefore unfair to try to universalize the rights claimed by women in the western world. Asia and Africa already had a much longer and richer experience in that respect.

3. Reviewing the historical background of the question, he noted that whereas in certain European countries, such as

England and France, women until recently had not been able either to own nor to dispose of property independently of their husbands or fathers and had been deprived of even the most elementary inheritance rights, in many parts of Asia women had enjoyed such rights to an extent never dreamt of in Europe. Civil marriage, which was so new to the western world, had long been a part of the Islamic cultural tradition, which recognized marriage as a social and legal contract in which the husband must settle a certain amount of his property on his spouse who would automatically receive it in case of divorce. He was not denying that some of the demands of women's movements in the western world were understandable and legitimate, but those movements were overzealous in their action and wrongly assumed that their values were suited to the entire world.

4. There were three major differences between men and women, biological, psychological and occupational. Referring to the biological differences, he reviewed the evolution of the family, and noted that the primeval function of women had been procreation and that that of men had been the protection of womanhood, especially during pregnancy. In its early stages the family had evolved through periods of polyandry and promiscuity without marriage, although wherever promiscuity prevailed society had deteriorated. In that connexion, he noted that in the contemporary western world the family was supposed to be organized on the basis of monogamy, but it could be more accurately described as successive polygamy, in view of the weakness of marriage ties. The family, however, should be indestructible and that was why all religions had sought to preserve it. It might then be legitimately asked whether western women wanted the destruction of the family. They would reply no and claim that their sole aim was to establish a new order adapted to industrial society. But industrial society was precisely characterized by the break-up of the close-knit family community, and western women would do well to bear that in mind.

5. The psychological differences between the sexes were also evident. Women were the physically weaker sex who fulfilled their role by relying on psychology, emotion, persuasion, affection and love, whereas men were endowed with superior physical strength which, since primitive times, had enabled them to serve as providers. The failure of a man to provide for his wife and children led to the disruption of the family, since it forced the wife to seek employment outside the home. In Asian societies, wives finding themselves in such a situation could rely not only on alimony, but also on the support of all the male members of their own families. That was crucial, since it enabled mothers to devote themselves to their children, who were thus spared the demoralization and anguish which led young people deprived of the care of their mothers to resort to drugs and promiscuity. The conditions

which drove young people to such practices in western societies were therefore unthinkable in Asia or Africa. Instead of providing nurseries with professionals who are substituted for mothers, it was the mothers themselves who took care of their children. He recognized that women who remained unmarried or whose children had already grown up and left home might legitimately claim the right to seek employment, but to force Asian and African societies to accept the phoney rights of modern western feminist movements would only lead to the corruption of Asian and African women and the deterioration of family life.

6. There were also occupational differences between the sexes. The feminist movement was fashionable in western societies, but he doubted whether women would be willing, or allowed by their husbands, to do heavy work, for example in mining or steel mills. He also had misgivings about the employment of women as truck drivers, since he had heard of women truck drivers being raped at night. Women could, of course, work as accountants or lawyers, for example, but only when they had no family duties. Western feminists who claimed otherwise were unwittingly contributing to the destruction of the family. They were also causing a good deal of unemployment, since women who should be at home raising their children according to the precepts of religion and morality were out gallivanting and looking for jobs. It might be acceptable for a woman living in an extended family, which included, for example, her mother, to take employment, but to do so in other circumstances would only increase the incidence of drug addiction, alcoholism and even suicide. In that connexion, he noted that suicide, once extremely rare in Islamic societies, was increasing under the influence of western customs and that he had been led by all the above-mentioned considerations to advise his Government not to participate in the World Conference of the International Women's Year.

7. He referred to some of the outstanding women who had left their mark on Islamic societies, where womanhood was treated as sacred and worshipped as the source of life. He stressed the complementarity of men and women and their need for each other and cautioned western feminist movements against being over-hasty in their attempts to adapt to modern industrial society. He advised them to ponder the evolution of the family in Africa and Asia, where all types of social experiment had been attempted both before and after the emergence of the family. He also invited western societies to consider the history of the decline and fall of the Roman Empire as narrated by Edward Gibbon, who had vividly described how luxury, promiscuity and corruption had led to the downfall of Rome. In conclusion, he urged Africa and Asia to adopt only those elements of western society which would give added strength to their own ancient cultures, and to reject what was frivolous and decadent, so as to avoid sinking into a morass in which the process of their spiritual growth would be arrested.

8. Mr. RIFAI (Jordan) said that 1975 had been a landmark year because it had been proclaimed International Women's Year and had witnessed the achievement of unparalleled progress in the very important field of the promotion of women's rights, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3010 (XXVII).

9. With regard to the progress his country had made in the implementation of the goals of International Women's Year, he said that King Hussein had signed a declaration on the Year, appointed a liaison officer and established a National Committee, whose first achievement had been to re-establish the Women's Union of Jordan, which had been dissolved in 1957. On 8 March 1975, International Women's Day, the National Committee had launched a publicity campaign on International Women's Year and had called for the advancement of women in Jordan. That campaign had been supported by King Hussein, the Prime Minister, the President of the Senate and the Ministers for Education, Information and Social Affairs of Jordan. Moreover, the National Committee had requested the Government to introduce laws prohibiting early marriage, concerning polygamy, ensuring that divorce cases should be heard by the courts alone and that decisions on custody of children should be made in the best interests of the children, and establishing marriage counselling and medical examinations for both sexes.

10. In early 1975, the Women's Union of Jordan had launched a campaign entitled "Informing us of your problem". A group of lawyers, trade unionists and representatives of women's organizations had drawn up projects to study the status and demands of women workers and peasants. The report on those projects would be published soon. A series of petitions urging the implementation of United Nations resolutions concerning the equality of women and human rights had been prepared and addressed to all interested bodies. A special petition had been presented to the Ministry of Education urging that girl students should be allowed to enrol in the Polytechnic High Institute, which would open in 1976. In addition, various cultural and educational activities had been undertaken in 1975 and exhibitions had been held in the libraries of the University of Jordan and the Amman Municipality. There had been exhibitions of folk arts and crafts and photographs showing the plight of women and children in the refugee camps in Jordan and focusing on women's resistance in the occupied territories. A seminar on the role of women in development would be organized in co-operation with the University of Jordan, UNICEF and some of the specialized agencies.

11. Through its National Committee, Jordan, which was a member of the Arab Preparatory Committee, had been represented at various meetings held to celebrate International Women's Year, including the Afro-Asian Symposium held in Alexandria, Egypt, in March 1975; a meeting held in Kuwait to establish the "Arab Family Agency" as part of Arab common activities for 1975; the meetings of the International Preparatory Committee for the International Women's Congress held in Tihany, Hungary; the first and second meetings of the Executive Committee of the World Congress for the International Women's Year which was held in Berlin and, finally, the World Conference of the International Women's Year held in Mexico City from 19 June to 2 July 1975.

12. Jordan was only one of many members of the international community and its actions must therefore be considered within the context of the universal nature of International Women's Year. It was, in fact, the efforts of all the members of the international community which had

made that year so successful. The cause of the advancement of women was an international one and since it affected everyone, everyone must contribute to it. Thus, although the drive towards the goals of equality, development and peace had begun, the momentum must be sustained so that those goals might be achieved.

13. Mrs. SØNDERGAARD (Denmark) said that it had been almost 30 years since the General Assembly had unanimously adopted resolution 56 (I) proposed by her delegation concerning the political rights of women. That resolution had been of far-reaching importance because it had affected more than one half of the world's population. Currently, the United Nations was once again concerned with issues which were essential to women all over the world and her delegation hoped that, as International Women's Year drew to a close, careful attention would continue to be given to the problems of women and their influence on development.

14. In that connexion, the report of the Conference (see E/5725 and Add.1) and the report of the Secretary-General (A/10263) were excellent points of departure for the Committee's discussions because they contained facts and information relating to hopes which the future should hold out for all countries, regardless of their level of development. After reading those documents, no one could claim to be unaffected by the problems of women.

15. Her country had had to abstain in the vote on the Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and their Contribution to Development and Peace (see E/5725, chap. I) because of the wording of some of its provisions. It nevertheless considered the Declaration and the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year (*ibid.*, chap. II, sect. A) to be visionary documents which would provide inspiration for politicians, economists, sociologists, social planners and persons responsible for education, housing and health programmes. Moreover, chapter IV of the World Plan of Action, relating to mass communication media, should provide media experts with ideas and thought for fresh approaches. Her delegation also attached great importance to the achievement during the five-year period from 1975 to 1980 of the objectives referred to in paragraph 46 of the World Plan of Action.

16. Her delegation recommended careful consideration of the proposed establishment of an international research and training institute for the advancement of women referred to in the Conference's resolution 26 (*ibid.*, chap. III). Although it accepted the requirements for the institute described in document A/10340, it thought that it would be preferable for the necessary research on the question of the advancement of women to be carried out by existing institutes. Should the proposed institute be established, however, it should operate on a regional basis so that it might solve urgent problems relating to education and training in particular regions. Her delegation agreed with the need for further conferences to be held at the regional or international levels, but thought that such conferences should be planned well in advance and focus mainly on certain aspects of the very broad problems of women's equality and their contribution to development.

17. Document A/10263 and, in particular, the part relating to measures and activities undertaken in connexion with the International Women's Year was likely to become a valuable historical document. It contained information about activities which had taken place during the first eight months of 1975. Since then, however, many countries, including Denmark, had carried out various other activities and the Secretariat might therefore undertake the task of updating the information contained in document A/10263. In her delegation's opinion, some of those activities seemed to have been designed to stress women's traditional roles, but what was really noteworthy was the frequent mention of education, information and research projects. A collection of reports on such projects would be an appropriate means of enabling a larger number of countries to benefit from the results. The activities carried out so far probably constituted only a small part of what was desired and needed and it was therefore necessary for countries to continue reporting to the United Nations on activities for the promotion of the equality of women. In that connexion, her delegation had sponsored the draft resolution introduced in the Second Committee,¹ relating to the implementation of the World Plan of Action.

18. Women's questions were social issues of immediate concern to her country, which attached great importance to the Commission on the Status of Women and looked forward to participating, beginning in 1976, in its work, which must be planned on the basis of the decisions to be adopted at the current session of the General Assembly. In the Commission, her country would be represented by the Chairman of the Council on Equality, which included representatives of labour, management, women's organizations and the women of Greenland.

19. Mrs. DE BAUTISTA (Colombia) said that, when the General Assembly had adopted resolution 3010 (XXVII) proclaiming 1975 International Women's Year, it had faithfully interpreted the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, which reaffirmed faith "in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women". For years, women throughout the world had been requesting the United Nations to urge countries to enact laws defending the rights of women and recognizing them as partners in social development. As a result of Economic and Social Council resolutions 1849 (LVI), 1851 (LVI) and 1859 (LVI) and the efforts made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Secretary-General of the World Conference and the Government and people of Mexico, the World Conference of the International Women's Year had been an unqualified success in the sense that it had contributed to the achievement of one of the goals of the United Nations, namely, that of focusing the attention of Governments on the serious problems involved in discrimination against women. The Group of 77 had supported the World Plan of Action and the Declaration of Mexico, as well as the resolutions which had been adopted by the Conference. In that connexion, she noted that the slogan of International Women's Year, namely, "Equality, Development and Peace", required men and women alike to gain awareness of the responsibility they shared for the establishment of a better and more peaceful world.

¹ Subsequently adopted by the General Assembly as resolution 3490 (XXX).

20. With regard to document A/10340, she said that the establishment of an institute for the advancement of women was an excellent idea and that her delegation fully supported the objective of permanent research work on the rights of women and their full integration in development efforts. Such an institute should have a small staff which would specialize in questions of organization, operations and administration, carry out an over-all evaluation of the activities of the World Plan of Action and ensure the implementation of the goals of the proposed decade relating to women and development.

21. Her country had done constructive work during International Women's Year. Thus, the President of Colombia had enacted Decree No. 2810 of 20 December 1974 proclaiming the equal rights and obligations of men and women. In addition, new laws had provided for the establishment of child-care centres and the liberalization of adoption procedures. Colombia's over-all programme for International Women's Year contained provisions for revising legislation relating to women and the family, studies of recently enacted laws on questions such as prostitution, drugs, juvenile delinquency, abortion, women's working conditions, the participation of women in trade unions, the unpaid labour of women in the home, the participation of women in decision-making and the recognition of indigenous and peasant labour as decisive factors in development.

22. In conclusion, she noted that women were convinced that their liberation would be brought about through intellectual preparation for occupations and careers, which would enable them to rid themselves of their inferiority complexes. To that end, men and women must work together for genuine change.

23. Mrs. KRAUS-DELPIN (Yugoslavia) read out an excerpt from the message sent to the World Conference of the International Women's Year by the President of her country and said that that message also seemed to be addressed to the Committee, which must consider and endorse the decisions of the World Conference and adopt proposals for future national, regional and international action to be taken to improve the status of women throughout the world. The fact that the status and role of women in society had become matters of increasing concern to the United Nations showed that the Organization had undertaken a commitment and that positive developments had taken place in that respect. Thus, attention was being focused on the reasons why women were slow to achieve full political, economic and social rights and the problems of women were being studied not only from the legal point of view but also from the point of view of their role in development efforts.

24. The consideration by the World Conference in Mexico of economic and social progress throughout the world had confirmed the fact that the status of women in a particular society was one of the best indications of a country's level of development. Women currently constituted one third of the labour force, but many of their social problems had not yet been solved and they still had not achieved equal rights. Research on the obstacles which prevented men and women, as equal partners in over-all development efforts, from contributing to the development of their countries

had been carefully examined by the World Conference which, in her delegation's opinion, had successfully carried out the task entrusted to it by the United Nations. Thus, it had adopted important decisions, including the Declaration of Mexico, the World Plan of Action and various resolutions, most of which had stressed the close link between the everyday problems of men, women and children, the policy of non-alignment and the interest and desire of developing countries to achieve political and economic freedom. The World Conference had also drawn attention to the true causes of discrimination and the problems relating to the liberation of women and their role and efforts to safeguard peace and promote economic and social development. Means of solving problems relating to the status of women had been considered in the context of the problems to be faced in overcoming inequitable international relations and establishing a new international economic order. The World Conference had also examined the problems faced by the international community as a whole, such as the Middle East crisis, colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, *apartheid* and fascism. The decisions adopted by the Conference reflected progressive positions, which had clearly indicated that international co-operation and peace required the achievement of national liberation, political and economic independence, the elimination of colonialism, fascism and other similar ideologies, foreign occupation and *apartheid* and the recognition of the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of land by force and of the dignity of peoples and their right of self-determination. In that connexion, she noted that the World Plan of Action recommended the participation of women in all efforts to strengthen and maintain peace.

25. Thus, the close link between social progress and the improvement of the social status of women had been clearly defined, but decisions taken at the international level could not be implemented unless the appropriate conditions were created in each country. The right of all men and women to equal employment opportunities and remuneration could not be achieved only through the adoption of legal solutions. To that end, countries must also make it possible for all to benefit from the opportunities provided by social and economic development.

26. The delay in the achievement of the objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade and the dramatic situation created by problems of overpopulation and hunger in certain regions of the world had been stressed at the World Population Conference held in Bucharest in August 1974 with the World Food Conference in Rome in November 1974. In addition to demands for improvements in the difficult situation of women and children in developing countries, demands were now also being made for improvements in the status of women in some developed capitalist countries in the West, where there was severe criticism of the "society of men" and of outdated concepts of the division of labour in the family and in society.

27. At the World Conference of the International Women's Year, her delegation had described the efforts made to overcome obstacles to the achievement of equal rights by Yugoslav women and had stressed that, during the preparations for the uprising against the fascist aggression during the Second World War, political leaders in Yugosla-

via had given particular attention to the participation of women in the struggle for national liberation. Yugoslav women had thus achieved full legal equality during the war of national liberation, which had also been a socialist revolution in which a large number of women had taken a very active part.

28. Far-reaching changes in the situation of women and men could not be achieved solely by legal means and would not automatically follow the improvement in living conditions; such changes could only be realized as an integral part of the accelerated process of development and of changes in the social structure. It was essential that the status of the individual in society should be determined solely on the basis of the work he or she performed and not on the basis of any other criterion. The status of women could not be changed unless determined efforts were made to ensure that the division of labour and family roles were not based on sex and unless society as a whole made efforts to establish new forms of child care and to ensure that ordinary household tasks were taken over by the social services. Society must create the necessary conditions in the spheres of education, information and medical and social protection to enable all citizens to plan their families freely.

29. Her Government had sent a memorandum to the Secretary-General (A/10160) concerning the measures which had been taken in Yugoslavia during International Women's Year. The Year had been used to evaluate the progress that had been made and to identify the obstacles which remained in the path of the improvement of the social status of women in Yugoslavia. The situation of Yugoslav women had radically changed both in society and within the family, parallel with the socialist and economic development of the country. Women constituted a third of the active population of the country and almost half the pupils in the schools were female. Women were being helped to combine maternity with full equal rights through assistance with child care, medical care, education and social security. Special efforts were being made to improve the situation of the rural population, including rural women. Women in Yugoslavia participated actively in political life and 28 per cent of the delegates to all political assemblies were women. Yugoslav women were increasingly prepared to work not only to secure their economic emancipation and for their personal and professional satisfaction but also out of a desire to participate in the development of the society. Yugoslavia had implemented a series of programmes affecting various aspects of the situation of women in society. The relevant bodies of the administration, scientific and professional institutions, socio-political organizations and other bodies were each obliged to take appropriate measures to ensure the implementation of the plans which had been drawn up.

30. The next phase in the socio-economic development of Yugoslavia offered favourable conditions for the solution of the social questions which still hindered the full integration of women in development and the improvement of their situation. Thus Yugoslavia was already implementing the decisions of the World Conference of the International Women's Year and the provisions of the Declaration of Mexico and the World Plan of Action. It supported the view that, parallel with efforts to achieve more balanced economic development in all parts of the world, it was necessary

to accelerate the process of change in the social status of all categories of the population as an essential component of progress. At the international level Yugoslavia would continue to work to strengthen the role of the United Nations and for the implementation of its decisions and resolutions, especially those relating to the new relations in the world, and also the documents adopted at the World Conference of the International Women's Year. Her delegation was prepared to support any proposal in the Committee aimed at ensuring the implementation of those decisions.

31. Mr. MARAŞLI (Turkey) said that the broad attendance at the World Conference of the International Women's Year was evidence of the immense concern felt throughout the world about the issue of the status of women. Many delegations had pointed out that problems regarding the status of women were vitally related to the issues of justice, economic and social development and peace confronting the whole of mankind. The realization that the issues concerning the status of women could not be treated in isolation from the other urgent problems which confronted the contemporary world represented a significant turning-point in efforts to build a better world for the future. Furthermore, the acknowledgement that any improvement in the status of women would inevitably bring about an improvement in the world economic and social situation and thus create a more favourable basis for peace should give a special impetus to efforts in that sphere. His delegation therefore believed that the Conference had served its purpose of defining problems and devising and proposing remedies for the coming years. It was up to the Governments and the United Nations to co-operate during the next decade to bring about tangible results in alleviating the plight of one half of the people of the world.

32. His Government had sponsored the Declaration of Mexico and it hoped that the Declaration, along with the World Plan of Action and the resolutions contained in document E/5725, would be unanimously approved by the General Assembly. It understood that although it had not been possible to discuss the World Plan of Action fully at the Conference, the ideas and recommendations incorporated in that document were not exhaustive and Governments were free to elaborate their national programmes according to their own particular needs and purposes.

33. Having fought successfully to secure its independence in 1922, Turkey had built the foundations of its society on the principles of equality, development and peace. Atatürk, the founder of modern Turkey, had believed that it was only through the joint efforts of men and women that a genuine contribution could be made to the progress of mankind and he had thus embarked upon a series of wide-ranging reforms not only providing the legal framework under which women had obtained full equality before the law in every area but also completely transforming the traditional image and role of women in Turkish society. Turkish women enjoyed all civil, political, economic and social rights on an equal footing with men and had emerged as influential and active members of society. Under the 1961 Turkish Constitution the State had assumed the responsibilities of economic and social development and welfare; since 1963 the Turkish Government had been working within the framework of State plans and program-

mes to achieve the full integration of women in the development process. Discrimination against women was non-existent and special emphasis was being given to providing better opportunities for women in the fields of education, health, employment, social welfare and civil and political participation.

34. Mr. SAMHAN (United Arab Emirates) said that his delegation endorsed the conclusions contained in the report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, including the proposal that an international research and training institute for the advancement of women should be established. He recalled that the Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries held in Lima, Peru, in August 1975 had reaffirmed the principles of the Declaration of Mexico and had also recognized the need for national strategies based on the principles of the Declaration and on the World Plan of Action and related resolutions and decisions aimed at ensuring the equal rights and equal responsibilities of women and men in all spheres of life. Women represented a tremendous potential and could have a great impact on social and political changes. The Political Declaration adopted at the Lima Conference² had pointed to the need for the full contribution of women in the struggle to eliminate racial discrimination and *apartheid*, and that should be borne in mind during discussions at the United Nations and in subsidiary bodies. The United Arab Emirates supported the Palestinian women who were contributing to the struggle for the self-determination of their people and against the racism which was being practised by Israel against the Palestinian people. His delegation also paid tribute to the African women who were participating in the struggle against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid* as practised by the white minority in southern Africa. His Government would spare no efforts in supporting that struggle until final victory was attained.

35. Since the United Arab Emirates had achieved independence, the Head of State and competent bodies had done

everything in their power to improve the standard of living of all the people; they had made all possible efforts to improve the status of women within the framework of society and to stamp out the vestiges of colonialism which had limited the role of women to the domestic sphere. Since independence, women in the United Arab Emirates had been given full opportunities to take their place beside men and measures had been enacted to enable women to contribute to building a better society. Various women's associations had been set up in the country, including a Women's Council which aimed at eliminating illiteracy and improving education and the status of women in all sectors of society. In its desire to ensure equality between men and women, his Government attached great importance to health and education as the basis of the well-being of the people. It provided free medical care for all citizens and attached great importance to the progress that was being made in providing full education and career opportunities for women. Women were being educated so that they could become active citizens and make a full contribution in all sectors of society, and they were being ensured equal pay for equal work. A budget had been established to enable women to participate fully in all social and cultural activities.

36. The status of women in the United Arab Emirates was based on the country's Islamic heritage in accordance with which women had always participated with men in society. His Government would continue to work to improve the status of women until it fully realized its goals of ensuring the well-being of all citizens.

37. Mrs. MOHAMMED (Nigeria) suggested that the time-limit of the submission of draft resolutions in connexion with items 75 and 76 should be extended to midday on 2 December 1975.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.30 p.m.

² See A/10217 and Corr.1.

2174th meeting

Tuesday, 2 December 1975, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Ladislav ŠMÍD (Czechoslovakia).

A/C.3/SR.2174

In the absence of the Chairman, Mrs. Burnley (United Republic of Cameroon), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEMS 75 AND 76

International Women's Year, including the proposals and recommendations of the World Conference of the International Women's Year (continued)

Status and role of women in society, with special reference to the need for achieving 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 co-operation between States (continued) (A/10003, chap. III, sect. F; E/5725 and Add.1, A/10042, A/10045,