

71. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation fully supported the statement of the German Democratic Republic and regretted that some delegations had brought up a subject at the United Nations which had no connexion with the item under discussion.

The position of the Soviet Union was well known and had been explained in several letters to the Secretary-General.

The meeting rose at 1.30 p.m.

2178th meeting

Thursday, 4 December 1975, at 8.50 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Ladislav ŠMÍD (Czechoslovakia).

A/C.3/SR.2178

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.3/647, A/C.3/648, A/C.3/L.2193-2198, A/C.3/L.2199/Rev.1, A/C.3/L.2200)

1. The CHAIRMAN announced that Kenya and Senegal had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2193, Chad had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2195, Poland had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2196 and Afghanistan and Senegal had joined the sponsors of the draft decision contained in document A/C.3/L.2197.

2. Mrs. KALLIGA (Greece) said that the International Women's Year had coincided with a very important phase in recent Greek history, namely the major upheavals associated with the first year following the restoration of democracy and the resumption of normal political life. It would have been only natural, in view of that coincidence, for public opinion in Greece to have ignored the International Women's Year, and it was very gratifying that exactly the opposite had occurred and that the Year had received a larger share of the attention of the general public in Greece than any other Year previously observed by the United Nations. Information on the relevant issues had not been confined to a small selected group and had reached the ordinary citizen. Undoubtedly the general climate of renewal and of free exchange of ideas in Greece had helped

promote concern with a number of political and non-political questions, including the women's movement.

3. Greek women had had their fair share of love and respect within their own small social circle ever since the country's early days as a sovereign State 150 years before. In more recent times, Greek women, having gone through the hardships of war, had been in a good position to understand and support effectively the cause of peace. They had achieved legal and political equality long before, and enjoyed equal opportunities in education and in access to any professions which might have been closed to them before the Second World War. They had a number of privileges relating to working conditions and maternity protection, such as special leave, early retirement and a number of social security advantages. Nevertheless, there was still a significant gap between the condition of rural and urban women. Illiteracy of elderly women in rural areas still persisted. Also, the *per capita* income of working women was low compared to that of men, and women's representation in politics and in high administrative positions was rather limited. In those circumstances, Greece had a great interest in some of the main goals set for the United Nations decade for women proposed in the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year (see E/5725, chap. II, sect. A).

4. Greek women shared with their sisters of the less-developed countries some of the main preoccupations for the future relating to women living in rural or low-income areas, particularly the goals of better education, acquisition of professional skills through training, more opportunities for acquiring the financial and other facilities that were available to men in the same areas and adequate access to social services in order to assist them in their duties towards their families and to allow them to participate more fully in the life of society and to contribute directly to the development process.

5. One of the preoccupations that Greek women shared with women in developed countries was the effort to achieve equal opportunities of promotion to top jobs and for a fair share in decision-making and in political life. Success in attaining that goal depended mainly on the willingness and determination of women to increase their participation in government, in union movements and in the leadership of other professional, social or political groups.

6. During the Year Greek representatives who had returned to Greece after participating, often very actively, in international activities in Paris, Mexico City, Berlin and elsewhere, had brought with them vivid experiences derived from contacts with women from other parts of the world and had informed the Greek public through the media about what they had learned. During those international meetings the attitude of Greek delegates towards a large number of resolutions adopted had generally been positive. Although the Greek delegation might have had serious reservations concerning certain parts of those resolutions, it had tried to assess their over-all importance and effectiveness in the promotion of the goals of the Decade and had usually accepted them on those grounds. Similar views were likely to prevail with regard to a number of the draft resolutions currently before the Committee, although her delegation reserved the right to comment on them later.

7. Because of the upheavals which she had mentioned, the International Women's Year had not been marked by spectacular progress in Greece in the promotion of its goals or in the setting up of the administrative mechanisms necessary for the achievement of its objectives. However, she was happy to say that something very important had been achieved, namely the stirring up of public opinion in the country and the questioning and reappraisal of a number of conditions and practices which had been taken for granted by everyone. In the first part of 1975 and during the drafting of the new Greek Constitution, a special committee of Greek jurists had been set up to study clauses of the Greek Civil Code which currently allowed for differences in treatment according to sex. The results of that work would be used in the revision of the Civil Code, which was required to take place within the time-limits specifically provided for in article 161 of the new Constitution.

8. Also, ratification by Greece of ILO Convention of 1951 concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value¹, had still to be followed by the ratification of ILO Convention of 1958 concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation.²

9. Greek women's non-governmental organizations had managed to keep the relevant issues alive throughout the Year by way of a series of small-scale activities such as lectures, exhibitions and public debates, which had subsequently been propagated by the media. In those activities they had had the full support of the Greek Government. Those activities had culminated in a special seminar held in Athens in October attended by representatives of professional groups, trade unions and women's non-governmental organizations from all parts of Greece. The seminar had concluded its work by assisting the Steering Committee of the Greek non-governmental organizations in establishing a list of priorities and special national goals for the proposed United Nations decade for women. The meeting had received great publicity, as it had been attended by the Greek President and Prime Minister and by the Secretary-General of the International Women's Year.

¹ International Labour Organisation, *Conventions and Recommendations 1919-1966* (Geneva, 1966), Convention No. 100, p. 795.

² *Ibid.*, Convention No. 111, p. 969.

10. In conclusion, she thanked the countries, notably Mexico, and international organizations, which had invited Greek representatives to participate in activities related to the Year, as those contacts had helped Greece to keep in touch with recent trends in enlightened international thought and to evaluate better its own special problems. The decade was a worth-while initiative that might bring significant changes in the current status of women on an international scale, and she hoped that the current climate in Greece would permit a fruitful exchange of ideas and a revision of outdated practices in regard to the issues which women considered vital to their future.

11. Mr. AL-HUSSAMY (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the head of his delegation at the World Conference of the International Women's Year held in Mexico City from 19 June to 2 July 1975 had fully set out the Syrian Arab Republic's position concerning the International Women's Year and the best means of attaining its goals. She had spoken of the accomplishments of his country in achieving equality between men and women and in integrating women into development and had set forth the difficulties which his country faced in that regard, chiefly because of the occupation of its territory.

12. His delegation adhered to, and took pride in, the historic documents adopted at the Mexico City Conference, including the Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and their Contribution to Development and Peace (*ibid.*, chap. I), the Plan of Action and the various resolutions (*ibid.*, chap. III). He wished to congratulate all women on those great achievements, particularly women of the developing nations, who had particular responsibility for speeding up the process of social and economic development in their countries. He also wished to thank the Mexican Government for the constructive role it had played in that Conference. His delegation wished to join the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2193.

13. Since the beginning of the Year all competent organs in the Syrian Arab Republic, the General Union of Women and various ministries and people's organizations had done all they could to implement the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session concerning the International Women's Year. A national committee had been formed for that purpose, seminars had been organized, and a week had been celebrated in Damascus in honour of the Year from 3 to 8 November 1975, in which many women from various friendly countries had participated. His country would have been pleased if the schedule of the Secretary-General of the International Women's Year had permitted her to attend as well. A Conference of Working Women held on 13 November 1975 had investigated ways of ensuring that the abilities of Syrian women were used in implementing the fourth five-year plan, covering the years 1976-1980. A working paper issued by that Conference had given priority to the role of women in economic development and had recommended that women's admittance to technical and professional institutions be encouraged.

14. The Plan of Action and the implementation of resolution 12 of the Mexico City Conference would be matters of concern for all competent bodies in the Syrian Arab Republic particularly the General Union of Women, which would exert every effort to implement the Plan in

the light of the principles enunciated in the Declaration. In that regard, it would co-operate with various United Nations bodies, particularly the Economic Commission for Western Asia.

15. Most of the women who suffered from lack of equality and from social stagnation lived in the developing countries, and the chief cause of their backwardness was the economic backwardness inherited by those countries after years of imperialism and foreign exploitation. The only way to create an outlet for the abilities of women in many Asian, African and Latin American countries was to eliminate colonialism, neo-colonialism, imperialism, foreign domination and occupation, zionism, *apartheid* and all forms of racial discrimination, to combat the acquisition of land by force, to defend the right of peoples to self-determination, to implement the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States (General Assembly resolution 3281 (XXIX)), and to establish a new international economic order on the basis of the important resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its sixth and seventh special sessions.

16. It was not surprising that the representative of the racist Zionist entity had attacked the important and historic Declaration adopted at the Mexico City Conference. One had become used to hearing that representative hurl insults on every occasion at the United Nations and its resolutions and to describe those resolutions in foul language which he would be ashamed to repeat. Indeed, the shamelessness of that representative had reached the point where he had torn the Charter of the United Nations to pieces in the highest forum of the United Nations. It was regrettable that a number of Western countries, headed by the United States of America, had capitulated to that racist attack launched by the worst racist organization known to modern history, namely zionism.

17. The clock could not be turned back. Many peoples of the world had freed themselves from the yoke of imperialism and foreign exploitation under which they had suffered for long decades. They had opened their eyes and seen the truth and they had joined the large family of peoples who had not been imperialists, aggressors, exploiters, occupiers or fanatics. The representatives of those peoples were those who had adopted and applauded the Declaration of Mexico and who had likewise applauded General Assembly resolution 3379 (XXX). They represented the spirit of the times.

18. Mrs. BADAMGARAV (Mongolia) said her country had warmly welcomed the proclamation of International Women's Year, which was designed to intensify action to promote equality between men and women and fuller integration of women in economic, social and cultural activities at all levels and to emphasize the part that women could play in the development of friendly relations and co-operation among States and in strengthening international peace and security. Celebration of the Year was a recognition of the role of women in the development of society and their increasing contribution to the struggle for universal peace and security and to affirmation of principles of peaceful coexistence and, equal co-operation in the relations among States with different social systems.

19. Her delegation wished to stress the importance of the Mexico City Conference. It fully endorsed the decisions

adopted at that Conference and shared the view that the Declaration and the World Plan of Action constituted a remarkable beginning to world-wide efforts to remove social injustices, to enable women to participate actively in the economic, social and cultural life of their respective countries and to integrate women fully into an international community based on equality and universal peace. Her Government wished to express its appreciation to the Government and people of Mexico for hosting that Conference.

20. As to activities in her own country, her Government had established a National Committee to supervise and co-ordinate activities related to the Year. That Committee had adopted a special programme of action to further encourage women's active participation in attaining the targets of the national development plan by involving them in nation-wide socialist emulation and by widely publicizing advanced job experiences of women workers.

21. During the Year, various nation-wide meetings, seminars and competitions had been held and special studies had been carried out, for example, on women's participation in scientific and research work. National cultural centres were organizing a series of lectures and exhibitions of photographs showing the role of women in the building of socialism and in promoting peace and friendship among peoples. Feature and documentary films were being made on the subject. A number of books on the work and life of Mongolian women and collections of songs and poems on the topic of mothers were being published. Special radio and television broadcasts had been organized and information on the implementation of the national programme of action, as well as articles on various topics related to the Year, had been widely published in national periodicals, such as the magazine *Mongolian Women*. Furthermore, a series of stamps and post cards devoted to the Year had been issued.

22. In addition to the activities she had mentioned, the National Committee had organized lectures, debates and political meetings on a wide range of topics dealing with activities of the Women's International Democratic Federation and with the life and struggle of women in other countries.

23. The Mongolian Women's Committee had maintained and developed its ties with women's organizations abroad, both national and international. Mongolian women representatives had participated in the work of various international gatherings and exchanged views with their sisters from various countries. Mongolian women supported the just struggle of women for freedom, democracy, social progress and equal rights.

24. Ever since the founding of the Women's International Democratic Federation the Mongolian Women's Committee had closely co-operated with it in strengthening the international solidarity of women the world over in the fight against imperialism, colonialism and racism, and for peace and social progress. It had also actively participated in the many international and regional meetings and seminars organized by the Federation. For example, recently representatives of the Committee had taken part in the World Congress for the International Women's Year

held in Berlin from 20 to 24 October 1975, which was one of the most important representative meetings ever convened in the history of the international women's movement and an important event for the Year. The participants at the Congress had discussed women's active participation in the struggle for universal peace, disarmament, security, national independence, democracy and social progress and equal participation by women in all spheres of social life. Her delegation whole-heartedly supported the Appeal and Statement which had been adopted at that Congress (see A/C.3/644).

25. In conclusion, she expressed her delegation's hope that strict implementation of the decisions and resolutions adopted during the Year would help to enhance women's role in the development of the national economy, culture and education, to ensure equal rights of men and women, to strengthen peace and friendship among nations and to educate the younger generation.

26. Mrs. HEANEY (Ireland) thanked the Government of Mexico for the invaluable role it had played in connexion with the World Conference of the International Women's Year.

27. In Ireland the Year had been marked by increased interest and activity on the part of women, non-governmental organizations, and the Government itself, as it had described in detail in its communication reproduced in the report of the Secretary-General (see A/10263, p. 37) and in the statement of the Irish delegation at the Mexico City Conference.

28. As the Deputy Prime Minister of Ireland had recently stated, equality of opportunity and responsibility before the law was the prerequisite for a full contribution by women to the process of economic, social and cultural development. Women's role in society must extend fully into the political sphere and the viewpoint of the women of the world must therefore be made known and heeded in matters which affected the future of nations and of all mankind, most especially in questions of war and peace.

29. A key element in the legislative programme of the Irish Government concerning equality for women was reform of family law. Traditionally, while women's role within the family was extolled, women were at the same time the victims in many respects of inequality and injustice. Relevant legislation, entitled the Family Law (Maintenance of Spouses and Children) Bill, was in passage through the Irish National Assembly. In a related area, deserted wives benefited from recent procedural legislation which provided for the reciprocal enforcement of maintenance orders between Ireland and Great Britain. The protection of the family home would be a subject of legislation in the near future. Also, the Minister for Justice had introduced during the year a Juries Bill which provided for jurors' lists to be compiled from the register of electors, thereby ensuring that discrimination on grounds of sex would no longer be a factor in jury selection. Finally, the Anti-Discrimination (Employment) Bill, 1975, had recently been introduced to protect against discrimination against women employed outside the home. It complemented the Anti-Discrimination (Pay) Act of 1974. Such legislation was necessary because women were excluded from management

and decision-making, for reasons which could be found in the heritage of attitudes and social conditioning that perpetuated the view that a woman was not made for those roles. As had been stated by the Irish Minister for Labour, the first step in the elimination of discrimination had been the legislation providing for equal pay for equal work, and the next step was the legislation currently before the Irish National Assembly which prohibited discrimination in recruitment, training, promotion and working conditions. That law would ensure that women would have a right to be considered for all jobs, with very few exceptions, and that when they were in those jobs they would have a right equal with men to be trained in order to improve their job satisfaction and their prospects for promotion.

30. In Ireland, as in all democratic societies, it was the people themselves who were the agents of change. Non-governmental organizations in Ireland, particularly those concerned with special problems of women, had shown a growing awareness of the climate of change on issues ranging from the situation of women in rural areas to that of single-parent families. Representatives of 29 organizations participated in the Council for the Status of Women, which had a key role in the observance of the International Women's Year in Ireland, and it was certain that the momentum of the Year would continue through the activity of those groups and through their influence in society at large.

31. Although the goals of equality, development and peace had not yet been achieved, impetus had been given to tackling the problems on a continuing basis, and those concepts could now be fruitfully re-examined in the light of all the activities of the Year, including the proceedings of the Mexico City Conference. Equality of opportunity and responsibility with the other half of the human race, to right the imbalance of centuries, remained the primary goal, since equality was a catalyst for dynamic change which would release creative energies to benefit society as a whole.

32. Development in the context of the Year particularly involved an effort to improve the economic and social lot of women in the developing countries. The same applied to developing areas or sections of society within national boundaries. Furthermore, it was appropriate in some cases to take into consideration the situation of women as a disadvantaged group world-wide.

33. While the situation of women throughout the world naturally reflected the diversity of cultures and economic and social conditions, many problems common to women in developed and developing countries had been identified. Such problems were also common to women from developed and developing sectors of the same country. The United Nations could usefully concentrate, in considering the agenda items under discussion, on those common areas of concern.

34. It was not, in her delegation's view, an acceptable position that development came first and that the integration of women into development automatically followed. As a matter of fact, the information available from United Nations documentation and elsewhere indicated that women's position actually declined proportionately in

many cases in relation to total improvement of a given society, unless specific attention was paid to aspects affecting women.

35. The introduction of concepts in some of the Mexico City Conference texts which ran counter to such proven conclusions had been a mistake and had involved a politicizing of the issues in a way which was not helpful to women. There were only too many developers who were quite happy to ignore the special problems of women under the guise of concentrating on development in general. To quote the excellent FAO booklet "The Missing Half", the first people needing to be developed were the developers themselves. The proper orientation for any document concerning the International Women's Year was that women's participation in development was a goal in its own right and, unless that goal was achieved, society as a whole was deprived of the resources of woman-power.

36. Peace, likewise, did not necessarily presage improvement in the status of women. At the Mexico City Conference many speakers had noted that the contribution of women in crisis situations had often gone unrewarded once the crisis was over and that what had seemed like a permanent improvement in the status of women, especially as to their role in decision-making, had not survived the return to the previous situation. Yet peace was a prerequisite for social progress for all, including women, and for enjoyment of human rights. A role for women in peace-making was related to their role in decision-making, and there was no country in the world where women had representation in decision-making that was proportionate to their numbers. In the affairs of State, power rested totally in the hands of men. It was by steps to right that imbalance that the cause of women and the cause of peace could be served. Neither cause was advanced by politicization of issues, as had regrettably been done in some of the documents adopted in Mexico City. There was a certain sense in which politicization of women's issues could bring results, but to reverse the process by exploiting issues in the name of women was not helpful to the cause of their advancement.

37. Her delegation considered the World Plan of Action the corner-stone of the documents adopted at the Conference. It was the first really comprehensive blueprint for action in a multidisciplinary and multisectoral context, and it was inevitable that a document so all-inclusive and ambitious in scope should give rise to some reservations by national Governments. One such reservation by her Government was reproduced in paragraph 16 of Appendix II to the Plan. Subject to that reservation and to flexibility regarding the time-schedule for the adoption of certain guidelines, her Government intended to implement the Plan within the framework of the Irish Constitution. As stated by the Deputy Prime Minister of Ireland in a speech in Oslo, implementation would be the real test of the Plan's effectiveness, and her delegation would accordingly support appropriate initiatives designed to ensure such implementation.

38. Most of the resolutions adopted at the Mexico City Conference were equally invaluable in directing attention to key areas of concern to women, and had the full support of her delegation. Unfortunately, concepts had been intro-

duced into a few resolutions which were either unacceptable in themselves or extraneous to the purpose of the Conference, and her delegation maintained the position it had taken in Mexico City with regard to such texts. It had similar reservations concerning the Declaration of Mexico, which had prevented it from voting in favour of that text despite the many worth-while elements which it contained.

39. Mr. CAMPBELL (Australia) said that the United Nations had designated 1975 International Women's Year without any illusions that an observance of that nature would, by itself, change the status of women or remove existing inequalities or injustices. Its purpose was rather to draw attention to such inequalities and suggest appropriate remedial action. Its themes of equality, development and peace were essential and interrelated objectives. Different countries would of course place different emphasis on different themes in accordance with their own national objectives and perceptions. His delegation did regret, however, the divisions that seemed to have arisen on women's issues between countries in different stages of economic development and countries with different political ideologies, whether as a result of lack of understanding of the common goals or suspicion as to the motives of others, and it hoped that they would disappear in time.

40. The International Women's Year should focus on objectives common to women throughout the world, regardless of level of development or political ideology. It ought to foster a consciousness in women and men of what it meant to be a woman in any society, and examination of the way women were perceived by themselves and by men, and of social, economic, cultural, political, personal and working relationships in the light of past stereotypes relating to women. Women must be given a wider range of opportunities and the freedom to choose between them.

41. It was also important to remember that the differences under discussion were ones of emphasis rather than substance and that while policies advocated by one country and one culture might not necessarily be appropriate to other countries and cultures, nations should not be afraid to learn from each other and share their common experiences.

42. It was unfortunate that the jargon associated with the women's movement in some countries had led many people to perceive it as a threat to their position and their institutions, because what the movement was really trying to do was to give women more opportunities to make contributions in every society and to show that greater participation of women would help to achieve national goals more quickly.

43. Australia recognized that discrimination against women was incompatible with human dignity and the well-being of society. It recognized that women should participate fully in the life of the country and be allowed to determine their own role in society. Legal, and to some extent economic and social, equality for women could be promoted by institutional and legislative means, but there was also a more fundamental need for changes in social attitudes, involving not only the way men saw women but also how women saw themselves. It was social attitudes

rather than institutional barriers which denied women access to educational and employment opportunities and the self-fulfilment and self-confidence which were the right of every human being.

44. With respect to the Mexico City Conference, his delegation felt that it had provided a substantial basis for national action to improve the status of women, even though it could not be expected to bring about far-reaching changes overnight. It was for Governments and international organizations to implement the recommendations of that Conference and his Government would play its part in the process. The fact that political elements had intruded in that Conference might even be welcomed, because there was a common misconception that the problems of women and the role they played were something apart from the political process. But the fact that many of the political questions raised in Mexico were irrelevant to the question of women and that others had not actually been related to women's problems or the role women could play in solving them was particularly regrettable.

45. In conclusion, he paid special tribute to the generous hospitality shown by the Government and people of Mexico in connexion with the Conference.

46. Mr. RIVERO (World Health Organization) said that resolution WHA 28.40 of the World Health Assembly, adopted in May 1975, urged Governments to take measures to widen the range of opportunities for women in the field of health, to review obstacles to women's participation in health activities, and to nominate more women to WHO fellowships for training abroad. The resolution also requested the Director-General to arrange for active participation by WHO in all the activities of the International Women's Year, to make recommendations for the development of medical and social services for the benefit of women, to consider women on an equal basis with men for positions in WHO at Headquarters and in the regions, to make a concerted effort to increase the number of women in professional posts, particularly at the policy-making level, and to assist Member States on request in preparing national plans for the participation of women in the economic, social and cultural life of their countries. The Director-General had brought the resolution to the attention of all Member States and indicated his willingness to assist them, upon request, in implementing the recommendations.

47. The World Health Organization welcomed the increasing attention being given throughout the world to issues concerning women and had devoted two issues of its monthly magazine *World Health* to those issues. It had contributed to the preparatory work for the Conference in Mexico City and had participated in the Conference itself. As part of the preparatory work it had prepared a paper on the theme that the health of women determined their status in society, in which their unique dual role must be recognized: they shared with men the task of providing food and shelter for themselves and others, and carried the burden of bearing children and of nurturing them in infancy. Their dual role made special demands on women and exposed them to additional health hazards.

48. That approach was reflected in WHO's programmes, where certain activities were specifically directed to

women's health needs—for example, technical assistance to maternal and child health care and family planning programmes, nutrition, and research in human reproduction. The significant contribution of women as providers of health care was especially recognized in activities for health education leading to community participation in health care and the training of workers in that field. WHO would continue to co-operate with the other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the World Plan of Action and related resolutions and decisions of the Mexico City Conference and promoting the objectives of the International Women's Year.

49. Miss GUERRA (Madagascar) said that 1975 had been decisive for Malagasy women in their struggle for recognition of their equality with men. Emancipated women were an economic, political and social force of growing strength which was calling in question to an increasing degree the outdated and unjust structure of certain societies. Full recognition of the equality and dignity of women was inseparable from a restructuring of society on the basis of justice. Women had a duty to shoulder their heavy burden and maintain a sense of balance in the exercise of the powers which they had achieved, and to ensure that their actions and decisions benefited all. It was in that sense that her delegation had supported the principles of the Declaration and World Plan of Action adopted at the Mexico City Conference and of the Statement and Appeal adopted at the World Congress in Berlin.

50. Women had always been respected in Malagasy society, particularly in rural areas where the old traditions were preserved. Thus, the emancipation of women in Madagascar was a question of general development and education rather than of overcoming any fundamental contradiction between the aspirations of the people and the structure of their society. Malagasy women enjoyed the same civic, economic, political and patrimonial rights as men, even though some instances of *de facto* discrimination might exist.

51. In the field of employment, for example, the problem was one of quantity rather than quality, with the exception of higher decision-making posts in government, where there were very few women.

52. Women constituted only slightly more than 10 per cent of national wage-earners; 76 per cent of women were in the active sector of the population, and nine tenths of them worked in agriculture, where, however, the number of women wage-earners was only one eighth of the number of men; women were mainly given unskilled tasks and very few of them were specialized workers.

53. The same kind of imbalance occurred in the liberal professions, such as those of doctor, dentist, pharmacist, lawyer, accountant and engineer, where the proportion of women to men was quite small.

54. The *de facto* inequalities in Malagasy society were the consequence of socio-economic contradictions brought about by an inadequate organization of society, rather than of conditions pre-existing in the country. It was for that reason that her Government considered the emancipation of women as an integral part of the national effort to

establish a truly democratic society. In June 1975 the Malagasy Government had taken an irreversible political decision which it had proclaimed in the charter of the Malagasy socialist revolution. The problems of women were to be solved within a national global strategy together with all the other social, economic and cultural contradictions and illogicalities which colonial and neo-colonial domination had left in their wake. For that reason, the International Women's Year took on a dual and more profound significance for Malagasy women. They had the sense of marching in step with the most lofty ideals of mankind.

55. The programme of the socialist revolution recognized the vital role of women and young people in the implementation of the national development programme. The future of Madagascar was therefore inseparable from equality between men and women. To ensure the participation of women in political decisions at all levels, the charter of the socialist revolution had provided for the establishment of revolutionary women's committees on a decentralized basis.

56. The ambition of the Malagasy people was to build a new and more equitable society excluding any form of oppression, domination or exploitation. Her delegation therefore thought that it was misleading to ask, as one delegation had, how much of their privileges women were prepared to give up.

57. However, to insist that women, in pursuing the three goals which they had set themselves—equality, development and peace—should pursue purely aims and remain aloof from politics, showed a lack of understanding of the significance of those three themes. The emancipation of women called for a revolutionary commitment on their part. To keep silence on South Africa and *apartheid*, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Palestine and Chile, to mention only the most urgent problems threatening world peace, would mean giving free rein to events and betraying all those who were struggling for freedom and peace with justice in oppressed and occupied countries. If women were to pursue their claims logically, they could not adopt half measures without compromising their mission of peace, and on their decision would depend the attitude of future generations.

58. The International Women's Year had been celebrated in Madagascar in many public events which had received a good deal of notice in the press. For example, there had been seminars at the provincial level, culminating in a national seminar held in October 1975 on women in development. The seminar had given considerable emphasis to the problem of illiteracy (71 per cent of Malagasy women were illiterate) as an essential factor in effective equality between men and women and had agreed on the necessity of cultural development of the population. The seminar had called on the Government to increase basic education facilities, particularly in rural areas, to increase assistance in the professional training of girls and to review legislation concerning the family.

59. Her delegation would support the proposal for the proclamation of the United Nations decade for women (see A/C.3/L.2195), which was the logical consequence of the heightened awareness of women's role brought about by the International Women's Year, the World Plan of Action, and the Declaration of Mexico.

60. Her delegation also supported the establishment of an international research and training institute for the advancement of women (*ibid.*), but thought that more information was required on the aims of the institute in relation to existing institutes already working in close collaboration with specialized agencies. Such institutes should be strengthened and dispersal of effort should be avoided. She therefore hoped that a realistic procedure would be adopted consisting in the first stage of the establishment of a group of experts to study all aspects of such an institute in association with a representative of all centres or institutes having the same purpose. In the second stage the conclusions and recommendations of the group could be submitted to Member States for study at the thirty-first session of the General Assembly.

61. Her delegation would support draft resolutions A/C.3/L.2194, A/C.3/L.2196, and A/C.3/L.2199/Rev.1.

62. Mrs. VAN DEN BOOGERT (Netherlands) said that the International Women's Year had proved that women from all parts of the world wished to play a more active role in society and that they were willing to make a valuable and constructive contribution to equality, development and peace.

63. Her Government believed that the full integration of women in the total development effort could be guaranteed only when national government policy and strategy provided the ways and means for women to be educated and trained to reach the highest standards in their respective fields and that society as a whole must ensure that women were adequately represented at all levels. In 1969 an Information Documentation Centre, run by Dutch women's organizations, had been established with the assistance of the Government. The objective of the Centre was to function as a focal point for the distribution of information on such subjects as the employment of women, discrimination against women, women's prisons and the feminist movement. The Centre served as a registry for planned research and research reports relevant to women's emancipation and was in a position to identify areas requiring further attention and thus to stimulate research.

64. Experience at the national level had strengthened the conviction that there was a real need for an international research and training institute for the advancement of women. Her delegation wished to thank the Secretary-General for the information and suggestions submitted on the basis of Economic and Social Council resolution 1959 (LIX) in document A/10340. Her delegation believed that there was a need to study the interrelationship between the position of women in society and factors such as cultural and religious traditions. It thought that the institute should be an autonomous United Nations activity, supervised by a board which would be appointed by the Secretary-General.

65. Her delegation believed that *de facto* adequate representation of women at all levels would gradually increase as they became involved in total development. The United Nations Secretariat was expected to give an example to the world and her delegation had therefore supported the draft

resolution on the employment of women in the Secretariat in the Fifth Committee.³

66. Her delegation regretted that International Women's Year and the problems related to it were often viewed in isolation from other world problems. Government action still seemed to assume too often that the role of women should be confined to humanitarian and social questions. In many countries women were very active in agricultural development and her delegation therefore supported the idea that special attention should be given to improving their situation in rural areas without, however, losing sight of the many women who belonged to low-income groups in urban areas.

67. The seventh special session of the General Assembly had outlined a procedure to ensure a more just and equitable distribution of the world's wealth. The Mexico City Conference had stressed the fact that women could and had the right to participate fully in that effort. Special attention should be given to projects and programmes designed to further that participation and particularly to programmes aimed at improving the situation of women in the weaker social and economic sectors of society.

68. Her Government and the non-governmental organizations of her country looked forward to a systematic review and appraisal of the results of the Mexico City Conference in accordance with the World Plan of Action. Her delegation was of the opinion that the United Nations should proclaim a decade for follow-up action to the Mexico City Conference, within the over-all development strategy.

69. Mr. DIEZ (Chile) said that throughout Chile's history women had played a special role and were actively participating in all spheres of public life, particularly law, medicine, architecture and education. Women played an active part in the administration of the country.

70. Chilean laws gave women complete equality with men and protection against malversation by men of family assets. They had a prime role in the direction of the family and the law gave them an equitable role in the administration and disposition of the fruits of their labour.

71. The Chilean Government had carried out a broad programme of activities for the International Women's Year. The President of the Republic on 17 October 1974 had formally proclaimed 1975 International Women's Year. There had been a special stamp issue, an exhibition of women's art and a photographic competition on Chilean women. A special book on women and their works had been published, together with a collection of historical essays on the juridical and social status of Chilean women during the past three centuries. There had been radio and television programmes on the International Women's Year and many articles had appeared in newspapers and magazines.

72. Women represented the moral reserves of humanity and were the depositories of the most noble principles which could inspire mankind and lead the world into the

paths of peace and security. Women could play a key role in the search for peace founded on love and could open up new horizons for youth. The Third Committee itself was the best witness of the manner in which the many women who participated in its work approached the social problems of mankind.

73. It was largely by the courage and determination of its women that Chile had been able to throw off a Soviet communist régime based on hatred and revenge. It had been the women of Chile who had rejected the Soviet attempt to control them through a system of food rationing previously unknown in Chile. The women of Chile had rejected the Soviet communist attempt to educate children in a system based only on hatred. They had rejected the attempt of Soviet imperialism to sink its bear's claws into Chile and return it to a state of colonialism from which it had liberated itself more than 150 years ago. He hoped that the lesson which Chilean women had given to the Soviet Union would serve as an example for other countries under the dictatorship of red fascism.

74. Mr. VON KYAW (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his country had supported the idea of an International Women's Year and the holding of an international conference in the hope of finding new outlets for its national efforts and of strengthening international co-operation in the struggle to overcome discrimination against women.

75. At the end of the International Women's Year, it was clear that only the first step had been taken. Equal rights and opportunities for women could not be assured by conferences, declarations, resolutions or even guarantees, although the latter were of importance in improving the situation of women. At least a decade would be required to overcome existing prejudices, the economic dependence of women and the lack of equal opportunities in such vital areas as education.

76. His delegation had hoped that the Conference would result in practical measures and it had welcomed the Plan of Action and a number of the resolutions adopted by the Conference. It had also noted with regret that some participants had not been able to resist the temptation to go beyond what was reasonable and constructive and had used the Conference for very specific and political ends by raising divisive issues which had little if anything to do with the aims of the International Women's Year and the need for increased international co-operation. They had managed to touch upon almost any political issue and to add to their politicized drafts the four sacred words "and in particular women", the use of which, in their opinion, justified almost everything. Draft resolution A/C.3/L.2194 currently before the Committee was an example of the use of women's issues for unrelated political purposes.

77. Certain resolutions and certain provisions in the otherwise praiseworthy Declaration of Mexico had not been supported by his country during the Conference. They continued to cause it serious problems in determining its attitude to draft resolution A/C.3/L.2195, which in other respects contained very many positive elements for the implementation of the Action Plan which had been adopted in Mexico City and which was supported by his Government.

³ Subsequently adopted by the General Assembly, as resolution 3416 (XXX).

78. The International Women's Year had helped to increase awareness among women in the Federal Republic of Germany of their interdependence with women in other countries. It had strengthened the realization that greater solidarity was needed to overcome the many problems which continued to impede the full implementation of the aims of the International Women's Year. His Government intended to support increasingly projects which promoted the initiative of women and their participation in development. For instance, his Government was contributing to the Itinerant Training Programme to Improve the Quality of Rural Life and would support the Sub-Regional Women's Seminar for the Promotion of Handicrafts and other Small-Scale Industries through Co-operatives, both organized by ECA. In co-operation with the Development Assistance Committee of OECD, it was drawing up new guidelines for assistance projects to promote the integration of women into the development process, particularly in rural areas.

79. In conclusion, his country was willing to support practical measures inside and outside the United Nations system to promote the full integration of women into society as equal partners. It would not, however, participate in any efforts of those who tried to use women's issues for their own political ends.

80. Mr. LAURENT (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that shortly before the Mexico City Conference, the Council of FAO had adopted resolution 2/66 on the integration of women in agricultural and rural development and nutritional policies in token of the great importance it attached to that Conference, in which, moreover, FAO had participated actively. FAO and the World Food Programme (WFP) had long been engaged in activities on behalf of rural women, and as far as those organizations were concerned the guidelines laid down by the Mexico City Conference were functional in nature. Those guidelines had recently been recalled by the eighteenth session of the Conference of FAO, which had adopted a resolution in which reference had been made to them and the Director-General had been requested accordingly to consider, re-orient and co-ordinate FAO's programmes in the sectors of nutrition, agriculture and rural development. The ways and means deemed the most effective for implementing the World Plan of Action would be applied forthwith, not only through the Regular Programme, but also through field activities.

81. The proposal contained in operative paragraph 5 (b) of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2195 was being studied at FAO headquarters. It seemed to be useful, although the difficulties involved in formulating an acceptable technique for interagency medium-term programming for the kind of activities contemplated should not be underestimated. In some cases, integrating women in rural development meant introducing an additional dimension into existing programmes rather than creating new programmes specifically designed for women. While awaiting the proposed medium-term programme, FAO would continue to co-operate actively in *ad hoc* interagency meetings.

82. A new strategy introduced in FAO was aimed at ensuring that all its technical branches would be required to assist in integrating the work of women at all levels in

agricultural and rural development policies. To that end, special machinery had been set up in order to structure a unified programme which could be reviewed periodically.

83. Provision had also been made for a specialized team which would give highest priority to requests from Governments which wished to implement the World Plan.

84. In connexion with operative paragraphs 7 and 8 of the draft resolution, FAO would intensify its efforts to acquire funding to complement the efforts of Governments. It wished to stress the practical nature of the projects it was sponsoring jointly with the Swedish International Development Authority in a number of Asian and West African countries to help rural women.

85. Recently, WFP had published a study suggesting improvements in its activities to promote more systematically the status of women at all levels in the sectors of food and health, education, vocational training, human settlements and self-sufficiency. Finally, FAO and WFP had joined with other agencies and regional commissions to find a solution to the question of alleviating the burden on the female labour force in rural areas.

86. Mrs. DE BARISH (Costa Rica) said that since the Charter of the United Nations had established the fundamental principle of the equality of all human beings without discrimination on grounds of sex, significant progress had been made in the United Nations, including the establishment of the Commission on the Status of Women, the reiteration of that principle in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (General Assembly resolution 2263 (XXII)), and the call for the full integration of women in development strategies. The women of most countries had won political rights, and the constitutions of many countries included principles concerning equal rights.

87. Nevertheless, progress in implementing those principles had been extremely slow. Although it had been amply demonstrated that women were capable of assuming policy-making responsibilities, the contribution of women in the formulation of national foreign policies and the policies of international organizations, including the United Nations and its system of organizations, had been very limited. Moreover, the important role of rural women in food production had not been adequately appreciated, nor had those women been given the necessary training and financing to discharge their tasks in that area more efficiently and productively. Even in those sectors in which women had become more involved, much remained to be done before they would find themselves on an equal footing with men.

88. The situation she had just described could be attributed largely to the low priority given to the implementation of the principles referred to and, in part, to the attitude of men and women. Only in recent years had women themselves acknowledged their potential as agents of change and of the political will to effect change.

89. That political will was becoming increasingly manifest in Costa Rica, and she drew attention to the description of her country's activities in connexion with the International

Women's Year in document A/10263. Moreover, as recommended in paragraph 2(g) of resolution 24 of the Mexico City Conference, her country had established an association for the training and promotion of women as a first step in a series of national measures to carry out the recommendations of the resolutions of the Conference. Costa Rica was a party to the International Covenants on Human Rights and the Optional Protocol (General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex), and Costa Rican women enjoyed the rights established in those instruments on an equal footing with men.

90. Even more significant was the fact that those rights had been incorporated in the national Constitution and legislation prior to the adoption of the Covenants. Successive civil codes and the family code of Costa Rica had improved the status of women, as had a number of practical measures. For example, day nurseries had been established in recent years to permit women to exercise their right to work outside the home on an equal basis with men. Costa Rican women accounted for over 50 per cent of the student population in the universities and were active in all scientific and professional fields. Women played a very important role in teaching at all levels. Women had served as ministers of state, and the present Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports was a woman. There were also many women judges in her country and some of them served on the Supreme Court.

91. The International Women's Year was of the greatest importance for increasing the awareness of the international community of the urgent need to implement principles which had been proclaimed long ago, for the benefit of society as a whole. The World Conference of the International Women's Year would have a significant impact on the recognition of the equality of rights of men and women, the full integration of women in the development process and the increasing contribution of women to the strengthening of international co-operation and peace. She expressed her delegation's gratitude to the Mexican Government for its efforts to ensure the success of the Conference.

92. Her delegation supported the idea to follow up the International Women's Year with a "United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace", and hoped that that theme would become a reality. Her delegation also hoped that progress would be made towards the achievement of the short-term, medium-term and long-term objectives of the decade, as outlined in the World Plan of Action. Her delegation had expressed its solidarity with those measures and with the principles enunciated in the Declaration of Mexico. Unfortunately, Costa Rica had been unable to support the global Declaration, for it had categorically objected to the inclusion of Zionism among the evils which must be combated to attain international peace and co-operation. Her delegation regretted that that opportunity had been used to politicize the important objectives established, thereby weakening them. Nevertheless, her country would continue to promote equal rights for women, the participation of women in development efforts and their contribution to peace, in order to establish a prosperous, just and free society.

93. Mr. CATO (Ghana) said that in the struggle for independence and the task of nation-building the women of Ghana had worked alongside men and that the two sexes

shared each other's concerns. Ghana had welcomed the designation of 1975 as the International Women's Year and through various activities, including the establishment of the Ghana National Council on Women and Development, had demonstrated its attachment to the goals and objectives of the Year and its desire to identify and ultimately remove obstacles impeding the full advancement of women and their total integration in national development efforts.

94. Discrimination against women was just as cruel as discrimination based on grounds other than sex and was a manifestation of injustice. Women must be free to develop their capabilities to the fullest extent possible and to release their energy in order to upset the structures of injustice and oppression. The international community's pursuit of peace could succeed only if its efforts were based on social justice. A world which was polarized between the rich and poor could not promote the objectives of the International Women's Year.

95. Ms. PÁLMAÐÓTTIR (Iceland) welcomed the proclamation of the International Women's Year in the context of the Second United Nations Development Decade and said that her delegation, which had participated in the Mexico City Conference, wholeheartedly supported draft resolution A/C.3/L.2193.

96. The documents before the Committee provided substantial material for the consideration of women's issues during the coming decade. Although each country must determine its own national strategy on the situation of women, basic mutual interests united women in their struggle to combat discrimination in the legal, economic, social, political and cultural fields.

97. Her country had responded favourably to the International Women's Year. Although Icelandic legislation recognized the full equality of men and women in every respect, there were still areas in which action was necessary. The Year had been used to promote national awareness of the theme of the Year and to draw the attention of the mass media and of women themselves to their right to participate fully in society on an equal footing with men, as well as the obligations which accompanied that participation.

98. A successful conference of the largest non-governmental women's organizations in Iceland had highlighted the obstacles preventing women from obtaining full *de facto* and *de jure* equality. The idea had emerged at the conference that women should adopt United Nations Day, 24 October, of the current year as their day, during which they would demonstrate their full support for the theme of the International Women's Year and would leave work—whether at home or in offices—to demonstrate the important role which women played in Icelandic society. That suggestion had been carried out with great success, uniting women from all political parties and all classes in a demonstration of the importance of the female labour force and of the determination of women to shoulder their share of the responsibility in society. All the related activities were fully supported by men and all political parties.

99. The goal of the International Women's Year had been adequately achieved in her country. Her Government had

appointed a special committee in connexion with the Year, attached to the Office of the Prime Minister, which would carry the task further in collaboration with non-governmental women's associations.

100. The international community faced an enormous task if it was to achieve the goal of equal rights and possibilities for men and women throughout the world under the World Plan of Action. Her delegation attached particular importance to family planning and educational opportunities for women at all stages of their lives. The problems in those areas were universal.

101. The mid-term review in 1980 would be of great importance in evaluating the implementation of national and international programmes based on the 10-year World Plan of Action adopted at the Mexico City Conference. A draft resolution which her delegation had sponsored had been adopted in the Second Committee⁴ calling for a system-wide review and appraisal of the implementation of the Plan to be undertaken as an input to the biennial review and appraisal of the progress achieved in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade. Such a review and appraisal of the Plan was of crucial importance for its success and should be undertaken at regular intervals by the United Nations system; the item should be fully integrated in that system; the process should not lead to separate treatment for women.

102. It was also important for the United Nations to set a good example by employing women in the Secretariat on an equal basis with men. A resolution to that effect, which her delegation had sponsored, had been adopted in the Fifth Committee.³

103. Mrs. TAIROVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) reminded those Chinese speakers who liked to make play with the word "super-Power" of an observation by Mr. Brezhnev that the Soviet Union was a super-Power in the extent of its territory and its population but that the term, especially in the sense in which some attempted to use it, had nothing to do with the policies pursued by the Soviet Union.

104. The interventions of many Chinese speakers in the United Nations, and particularly in the Third Committee, showed that Peking was trying to divert attention from the policies of the Chinese Government which was in favour of increasing the international tension and was against disarmament and the peaceful coexistence of States regardless of their social systems. The Chinese position on questions of war and peace rejected any possibility of peaceful coexistence, intensified the arms race, supported aggressive imperialist blocs and threatened the world with thermonuclear war. Peking's policies were in fundamental contradiction with the accepted canons of international law established by a number of international texts including the Charter of the United Nations. Peking was against the relaxation of tension just at a time when world public opinion had accepted that as the prevailing trend. It was

attempting to undermine the improvement in the international climate, to impede the irreversible process of détente and to prevent the establishment of a system of collective security in Europe and Asia.

105. At a time when the developing countries saw in détente an important condition for their independent national development and economic and social progress, China was saying that they should prepare for war, was calling for greater disorder and was fostering the increase of tension.

106. The Chinese representative had spoken of disarmament but that was deception. It was well known that China stubbornly refused to take part in any disarmament talks and would not take on any responsibilities in the field of nuclear or conventional armaments. It tried by distorting facts and making insinuations to mislead people in order to sabotage reasonable proposals and practical steps towards the solution of disarmament problems. China had taken no part in any of the disarmament conferences and at the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly had voted against the draft resolution subsequently adopted as resolution 2936 (XXVII) for the non-use of force in international relations and permanent prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons. It had also voted at the twenty-eighth session against the proposal for the reduction of the military budgets of States permanent members of the Security Council by 10 per cent and utilization of part of the funds thus saved to provide assistance to developing countries (resolution 3093 (XXVIII)). China had spoken against the convening of a World Disarmament Conference and had impeded the work of the *Ad Hoc* Committee established by the General Assembly to prepare for that Conference.

107. The Chinese representatives opposed any constructive decisions in the United Nations, yet had made no proposals of their own.

108. The representative of the Fascist junta had tried to present Fascist terror in Chile as a paradise for women. The Committee had not forgotten what it had heard of the torture of women in the prisons of the Fascist junta. She rejected the allegations of the representative of the junta against her country, which had played a most important part in opening the way for the real equality of women in society. The representative of the Fascist junta had on his hands the blood of thousands, including women and children.

109. Mrs. PALTÍ (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, recalled that the Syrian representative had complained that the Permanent Representative of Israel had torn up the notorious text equating zionism with racism. She quoted a broadcast by the Government-controlled Syrian radio station boasting that the Fedayeen had attached dynamite to copies of United Nations resolutions and blown them up in Zion Square in Jerusalem. That indicated that the Syrian representative preferred to treat United Nations resolutions as a licence for murder.

110. Mrs. HO Li-liang (China), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that when her delegation had spoken on the item under consideration at the 2177th meeting, it had affirmed the positive spirit of the Declaration of Mexico

⁴ Subsequently adopted by the General Assembly as resolution 3490 (XXX).

and had given an account of the struggles of Chinese women. It had also stressed the need for the people of various countries to have an adequate understanding of the current world situation and a clear perception of the fraudulent nature of such propaganda as "disarmament" and "détente". Her delegation had also pointed out that the root cause of war lay in the fierce contention for hegemony between the two super-Powers, particularly in social imperialism. By presenting the facts, the Chinese delegation had hit the Soviet representative where it hurt. The Soviet representative had distorted and slandered the statement of her own delegation and had even arbitrarily accused the Chinese people of aggravating international tensions and spreading war propaganda. That only further revealed that that representative was deplorably devoid of any arguments.

111. China was a developing socialist country and, like the other third world countries, needed a favourable international environment in which to grow. China did not have a single soldier or military base abroad, had never been a super-Power and would never seek to become one. Therefore, the Chinese people could not be accused of provoking war. Soviet social imperialism, which sought to control, interfere in and subvert other countries, could in no way cover up the stark reality of the modern world with flowery rhetoric about "disarmament", "détente" or other deceptive propaganda.

112. It was necessary to recognize the danger of a new world war, to increase vigilance and be prepared in the face of war preparations by the super-Powers. Failure to be aware would bring suffering; failure to be prepared would bring even more suffering.

113. Her delegation was convinced that the women of the world were politically aware, capable of making sound judgements, and able to distinguish between truth and falsehood and friend and foe. They would join the other people of their countries and the rest of the world in the struggle against hegemonism.

114. The Soviet delegation's attempt to use the slogan of "disarmament" and "détente" for its ulterior political aim would meet with the increasing opposition of the world's people, including women.

115. The Chinese people would continue, within and outside the United Nations, to support the just struggles of all small and medium-size countries, particularly the third world countries, against hegemonism, and to expose the criminal activities and fraudulent talk of the super-Powers, particularly social imperialism's interference in, control over, expansion in and bullying of other countries. The Chinese people were duty-bound to safeguard the true interests of the world's people, including women.

116. Mr. DIEZ (Chile), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representative of the Soviet Union, using the traditional tactics employed by Soviet communism against countries and peoples which did not follow its dictates, had described Chile as a fascist country. That was not surprising, for that was how the USSR described all its enemies.

117. The human rights of women were violated in the Soviet Union and, even worse, the Soviet Union used women to violate those rights. He drew attention to a clandestine Soviet publication which exposed the atrocities committed by the Moscow authorities and noted that many women psychiatrists were working for the KGB for the purpose of altering the psychological state of political detainees. He mentioned a number of those women by name and said that his delegation possessed substantial material, including some from the Soviet Union itself, denouncing the system of torture applied in the Soviet Union to violate human rights.

118. The degree and type of systematic repression to which women were subjected in the Soviet Union was unprecedented elsewhere in the world. Special units existed for women detainees accused of political crimes, and the Soviet Union had stooped to the lowest level of barbarity in condemning entire families to forced labour as a means of punishing women. He mentioned a number of such cases and also described the plight of some of the many women who were being kept drugged in psychiatric hospitals. The Soviet Union had even gone so far as to condemn and punish women for attempting to print Bibles.

119. The perpetrators of red fascism rejected any attempt to investigate what went on inside the Soviet Union, even with respect to matters about which the international community had the right to be informed. The International Red Cross had not even been permitted to enter Soviet territory.

120. Mr. AL-HUSSAMY (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the story just related by the Zionist representative was a tale about the Fedayeen invented by the Zionists to stir up fanaticism among the Israelis.

121. The Zionist representative sought to halt the continuing progress of Arab society. It was a fact, however, that the international community every day dealt a blow to zionism, as was indicated by the adoption by the General Assembly of the resolution 3379 (XXX) equating zionism with racism and it was a fact that a representative of Palestine had attended the meeting of the Security Council that very afternoon. Even if the Zionist representative persisted in her arrogance, the Arab cause would continue to advance.

122. Mrs. TAIROVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the Chinese representative had not introduced any arguments to justify her accusations and that the Chinese delegation always repeated the same ideas.

123. The representative of Chile had no moral right to accuse any other delegation of violating human rights, particularly those of women, and she recalled that the Committee had condemned the Fascist junta. The Chilean representative's attempts to describe his own country as a paradise would convince no one. Moreover, the data he had culled from anti-Soviet material proved nothing and was only evidence of his impotence. The Committee knew full well who had behaved properly in the international community, who was struggling to uphold ideals and who had the moral right to speak out.

124. Mr. DIEZ (Chile), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, quoted a recent interview in the Italian periodical *Oggi* in which the wife of Andrei Sakharov emphasized how little the West knew about the true conditions in the Soviet Union and noted that Red Cross representatives were not permitted to visit political prisons in the Soviet Union, where the situation was more tragic than that in Chile.

125. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the Committee, in its long debate on the widespread and flagrant violations of human rights in Chile, had learned what the true status of women was in Chile. He recalled that the representative of the junta had attempted to reject

the report⁵ of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group established by the Commission on Human Rights.

126. Rather than ferret out anti-Soviet fables in various newspapers, The Chilean representative would do better to study that report and the relevant resolutions adopted by the Committee more carefully. The Chilean representative had given no indication as to what the junta was doing to comply with those resolutions.

The meeting rose at 11.40 p.m.

⁵ A/10285, annex.

2179th meeting

Friday, 5 December 1975, at 11.00 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Ladislav ŠMÍD (Czechoslovakia).

A/C.3/SR.2179

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.3/647, A/C.3/648, A/C.3/L.2193, A/C.3/L.2194/Rev.1, A/C.3/L.2195-2198, A/C.3/L.2199/Rev.1, A/C.3/L.2200, A/C.3/L.2206)

1. The CHAIRMAN announced that Lesotho and Oman had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2193; that Oman had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2195; that Hungary had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2196; that Canada, Liberia and Zambia had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2198; that Zambia had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2199/Rev.1; and that Belgium, Uganda and Zambia had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2200.

2. Mr. STÄHL (Sweden) said that the United Nations could look back with a certain satisfaction at what had been achieved during the International Women's Year. The United Nations had a long record of fruitful work in

promoting the status of women in the context of basic human rights; the quest for equality between men and women had now been recognized as an integral part of the struggle against poverty and under-development. Furthermore, the integration of women into development had been linked with the establishment of a new international economic order.

3. A life of poverty, hunger and exploitation was the grim reality for millions of people in the poor countries, and those conditions could be changed only through a new world order. However, new international economic relations would not automatically bring about equality between men and women, and reforms in the international economic system must be coupled with domestic reforms. It would take dedicated efforts on the part of the Governments of the world to implement the measures that had been agreed on under the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year (see E/5725 chap. II, sect. A) and that work must form part of over-all efforts to attain equality between individual members and groups of society. The World Plan of Action allotted a crucial role in its implementation to the United Nations system, and it was the task of the United Nations to stimulate and monitor national efforts. The United Nations must also strive to ensure equality between men and women in its own activities for social and economic development. At the World Conference of the International Women's Year held in Mexico City from 19 June to 2 July 1975 and during the current session of the General Assembly his delegation had initiated and supported proposals designed to strengthen the unit of the United Nations Secretariat responsible for implementing the World Plan of Action, as well as measures designed to link the follow-up of the World Plan of Action with the everyday social and economic work of the organizations of the United Nations system.