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ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION
OF ITS TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION

DRAFT REPORT

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Chapter _____ INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS RELATING TO THE STATUS OF WOMEN

(a) Draft Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

1. The Commission considered item 3 (a) of its agenda on the draft Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, at its 632nd meetings. It had before it a working paper based on comments received from governments, United Nations specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council on the draft articles contained in the report of the Working Group on the Preparation of a New Instrument or Instruments of International Law to Eliminate Discrimination against Women (E/CN.6/594) as well as a draft Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against women and comments received from the Government of Belgium (E/CN.6/591/Add.1).

2. In introducing the working paper and the addendum the Deputy Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs explained that it had been prepared in response to resolution 1 (XXV) of the Commission on the Status of Women and was based on replies received from 40 governments, four Specialized Agencies and ten non-governmental organizations. She explained that the working paper consisted for the most part of than analysis of the replies received with respect to the different parts and articles of the draft Convention. It was noted that only the replies of Benin, Indonesia and All-African Women's Conference were reproduced in Annex II to the present document, because each of them proposed a new draft Convention. She further explained that since the draft conventions submitted by Benin, Indonesia and All-African Women's Conference were based on the text elaborated by the Working Group, they were analyzed in the working paper together with all replies that were received. The Commission was also reminded that at its last session of the Commission, the Working Group had decided not to vote on any articles of the draft Convention and where the Working Group did not reach a consensus and alternative texts were proposed or recommendations made or reservations expressed, that was reflected in connexion with the relevant articles contained in the report of the Working Group which was included in Annex III to the Working Paper (E/CN.6/591).

3. Several representatives noted that as the future Convention was a most important document, the Commission should do its utmost to complete it at the current session or at

least to finish the greater part of it. In that respect reference was made to the General Assembly resolution 3521 (XXX), which requested the Commission to complete the elaboration of the Draft Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in 1976. As far as the contents of the draft were concerned, it was emphasized that it was progressive and comprehensive, since it contained not only anti-discriminatory measures but also a number of positive and constructive steps to advance the status of women in different fields.

4. The representative of ILO expressed her appreciation of the tremendous work done by the Secretariat in preparing the Working Paper. However, as in the previous session of the Commission, she drew the Commission's attention to the necessity of avoiding the possible overlapping between the present ILO instrument relating to the status of women and the Convention, elaborated by the Commission. Therefore she suggested that the Convention should be brief and to the point, without going into the details which were duly reflected in the respective ILO and UNESCO Conventions. She further pointed out that the systems of implementation could overlap since governments would have similar obligations under several international instruments. References were made to respective ILO Conventions, and in particular to Convention No.100 on the Equal Remuneration of Men and Women for Work of Equal Value and No.103 on Maternity Protection. She explained that though in the ILO Conventions some provisions were updated and their revision was necessary, they were more detailed and comprehensive in their respective fields than the draft Convention presented to the Commission. Besides, it was observed that maternity protection should not result in discrimination against women, and this should be one of the main concerns of the Convention.

Decisions, Consideration of Amendments and Voting

At its 632nd meeting held on 14 September 1976 the Commission decided by [] that the title of the Convention should be similar to the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. At the same meeting the Commission decided to discuss the preamble of the draft Convention after the discussion of the substantive provisions.

At its 632nd meeting the Commission considered article 1 of the Draft Convention. Opinion with respect to alternative and original texts was divided. Thus, some countries expressed the conviction that the Convention should deal not only with discrimination against women, but with discrimination on grounds of sex, as a whole. On the other hand, other representatives stressed the view that the Convention should deal with discrimination against women, that women's position in society and their dual role at home and at work, and their maternal functions in particular needed special measures which could not be considered discriminatory. The United Kingdom unified both versions of the article and presented a new one, which read:

"For the purpose of this Convention the term 'discrimination against women shall mean any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference made on the basis of sex which has the effect of, or the purpose of, nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women on a

basis of equality with men of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life."

During the discussion, the United Kingdom proposed the deletion of the words "or preference" and the insertion of the words "impairing or" before the word "nullifying".

With these amendments article 1 was adopted by consensus.

Article 1 of the Draft Convention, as adopted, reads as follows:

"For the purpose of this Convention the term 'discrimination against women' shall mean any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect of or the purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women on a basis of equality with [men] of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life".

After the adoption of article 1, Sweden stated for the record that if the article had been voted upon, Sweden would have abstained since it did not include the term "discrimination on grounds of sex". Sweden underlined that the term "discrimination" should correspond to the formulation contained in paragraph 5 of the Declaration of Mexico. Denmark took the same position, specifying that the term "discrimination" should follow the definition of the term in the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination which includes the word "preference".

Article 2 was discussed at 632nd, 634th and 636th meetings.

Opinion was divided with respect to the alternative and original texts. While a member of representatives found the original text to be comprehensive and to the point, others felt that it was too rigid and could result in fewer ratifications of the Convention. On the other hand, the alternative text was found to be quite satisfactory by some representatives and very inadequate by the others. The solution was found in the unified version of article 2, proposed by Belgium in document E/CN.6/591/Add.1 which reads as follows:

States Parties condemn discrimination against women and undertake to pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating discrimination against women in all its forms, and to this end:

(a) Each State Party undertakes to embody the principle of the equality of men and women in its national Constitution, if not yet incorporated, and to guarantee by law the practical realization of this principle;

(b) Each State Party undertakes to adopt legislative measures accompanied by penalties prohibiting all discrimination against women and guaranteeing the realization of the principle of equality of rights;

(c) Each State Party undertakes to establish legal protection for equal rights of men and women;

(d) Each State Party undertakes to engage in no act or practice of discrimination against women and to ensure that public authorities and public institutions shall act in conformity with this obligation;

(e) Each State Party undertakes to adopt all preventive measures to bar discrimination against women by any person or organization;

(f) Each State Party shall take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to nullify or abolish existing laws, regulations, customs and practices which are discriminatory toward women;

(g) Each State Party undertakes to promote organizations and movements whose purpose is to advance the status of women and eliminate all discrimination against them.

The following amendments were proposed to this text:

In the introductory part, the United States proposed to put instead of words "against women" in the first line, the words "based on sex" and to add the word "sex" before the word "discrimination" in the second line. The United States further proposed that the words "against women in all its forms" be deleted; the USSR delegation opposed this modification referring to the agreed title of the Convention as well as to the formulation of article 1, which was adopted by consensus.

In paragraph (b) – Senegal proposed to delete the word "penalties", the United States preferred to maintain it;

In paragraph (c) – the United States proposed to change the word "public" to the word "governmental"; the USSR preferred to substitute the word "State" for the word "Governmental". Senegal suggested the words "and private" be included before the word "institutions";

In paragraph (e) – Senegal proposed to find a stronger word than the word "to bar", used here; the United States suggested the words "based on sex" be included instead of the words "against women";

In paragraph (g) – Senegal proposed to delete the word "all";

After due deliberations, at its 642nd meeting, the Commission adopted by enormous the following text of article [2], as proposed by the Working Group (doc E/CN.6/605):

States parties condemn discrimination against women and undertake to pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating discrimination against women and to this end:

(a) Each State party undertakes to embody the principle of the equality of men and women in its national Constitution if not yet incorporated, and to ensure through law or other appropriate means the practical realization of this principle;

(b) Each State Party undertakes to adopt legislative and/or all other appropriate measures accompanied by sanctions prohibiting all discrimination against women and guaranteeing the realization of the principle of equality of rights;

(c) Each State Party undertakes to establish legal protection for equal rights of men and women;

(d) Each State Party undertakes to engage in no act or practice of discrimination against women and to ensure that public authorities and public institutions shall act in conformity with this obligation;

(e) Each State Party shall endeavour to take all preventive measures to eliminate discrimination against women by any person or organization;

(f) Each State Party shall take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to modify or abolish existing laws, regulations, customs and practices which are discriminatory to women;

(g) Each State Party endeavours to promote organizations and movements whose purpose is to advance the status of women and eliminate discrimination against them.

Commenting on the article, the representative of Madagascar proposed to change the word ["s'offorce"] in the (French version) in paragraph (e); the representative of Mexico also proposed to change, in paragraph (c), the word "juridique" in the (French version) for the word "jurisdictional"; the representatives of Iran and Pakistan stated that though they agreed in principle to article 2, some of the provisions of that article did not conform to their national legislation, and therefore they reserved the right to comment on article 2 subsequently. The representative of Sweden stated that the Swedish delegation favoured a broader concept of discrimination, i.e. discrimination on the grounds of sex, and therefore if the article had been put to vote, the Swedish representative would have abstained. A similar position was taken by the United States, in their reservation to the words "discriminatory to women" (paragraph (f)).

Article 3 was discussed by the Commission at its 634th meeting. The importance of this article was recognized by most representatives. It was adopted with some modifications by consensus at the 634th meeting on 15 September 1976. The modified text of article 3 as adopted by the Commission reads as follows:

"States Parties shall undertake in all fields, in particular, political, social, economic, cultural, all appropriate measures, including legislative, to ensure the full development and advancement of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

15. Article 4 – was discussed at the 634th meeting. The United Kingdom offered a modified version of article 4, which reads as follows:

1. The adoption of special temporary measures aimed at establishing de facto equality between men and women shall not be considered discriminatory, where circumstances justify their introduction.

2. Measures in the social security field reflecting the different social needs of men and women shall not be considered discriminatory.

3. Measures undertaken for the protection of women at certain branches of work due to their physical nature and for the promotion of the welfare of mothers shall not be interpreted as violating the principle of equality of rights of men and women.

16. Though some delegations stressed the significance of the article and the necessity to adopt it as it was presented in the draft Convention, most felt that in view of the close link between this article and article 11 of the draft Convention it should be discussed together. The Commission decided therefore to postpone the debate on article 4 by 11 votes to 7 with 3 abstentions.

17. Article 5 was discussed at the 636th and 638th meetings. Some delegations stressed the necessity to include in the article a provision concerning the protection of motherhood as a social function. Other representatives preferred to consider this concept in the context of economic and social rights.

18. At its 636th meeting, the Commission adopted by consensus paragraph 1 of the article which was a modified version of the alternative text of article 5 presented by Mexico and amended by the United States of America. Paragraph 1 of article 5 as adopted by the Commission reads as follows:

"1. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices and customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority, or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women".

19. As far as paragraph 2 of article 5 was concerned, three versions were presented for the Commission's consideration.

The first one, submitted by Cuba (document E/CN.6/L.676) reads as follows:

"Suitable family education which should include a proper understanding of motherhood as a social function and the recognition of the common roles of men and women in bearing responsibility for children should figure prominently in plans drawn up for this purpose".

20. The second one, presented by Belgium and France (document E/CN.6/L.677) reads as follows:

"In view of the importance of motherhood as a social function the same attention should be given to the family education of the couple with a view to the equitable sharing of all tasks between the parents".

21. The USA version of paragraph 2 (document E/CN.6/678) reads:

"In the determination of roles, it should be recognized that both motherhood and fatherhood are responsible social functions".

22. During the discussion which followed, most representatives supported the Cuba version; subsequently Belgium, France and the United States of America withdrew their proposals.

23. Egypt submitted an amendment to the formulation of paragraph 2, as it was presented by Cuba, to delete the word "which" in the first line; to delete the end of the phrase after the words "of the common" and to insert the words "responsibility of both men and women in the upbringing and development of their children".

24. At the 638th meeting, the Cuban formulation of paragraph 2 as amended by Egypt was adopted by 23 votes to none with 2 abstentions and reads as follows:

"2. Suitable family education should include a proper understanding of motherhood as a social function and the recognition of the common responsibility of both men and women in the upbringing and development of their children".

25. Thus, article 5 adopted by the Commission reads as follows:

1. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices and customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority, or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotypes roles for men and women.

2. Suitable family education should include a proper understanding of motherhood as a social function and the recognition of the common responsibility of both men and women in the upbringing and development of their children.

26. Article 6 was discussed at the 638th meeting. Several representatives proposed to delete it, on the ground that it was a repetition of article 2. However, most representatives were in favour of maintaining this article, emphasizing in particular that it corresponded to article 7 of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and referring to the acute necessity of abolishing discrimination against women in that particular field. Article 6, as presented in the draft Convention, was adopted by consensus and reads as follows:

"Each State Party agrees to repeal all provision of national penal codes which constitute discrimination against women".

27. Article 7: During the discussion of this article which took place at the 638th meeting, Belgium proposed an amended version of article 7 as was presented in document

E/CN.6/591/Add.1. Denmark proposed an oral amendment to the text of article 7 of the draft Convention, (E/CN.6/591) i.e. to put the word "illicit" before the word "traffic".

28. Since most delegations expressed preference for the text of article 7 as it was presented in the draft Convention, Belgium and Denmark withdrew their amendments and the Commission adopted article 7 by consensus.

Article 7 adopted by the Commission reads as follows:

"Each State Party agrees to take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to combat all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women".

29. Article 8 was discussed at the 638th meeting. The Members of the Commission noted that it corresponded to the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Political Rights of Women, 1952.

30. During the discussion, an oral amendment was proposed by India to paragraph 0b) of the draft, i.e. to include after the word "office" the words "and perform all the public functions". Canada submitted an oral amendment to paragraph (d), namely to add after the word "associations" the word "concerned with the public and political life of the country". The Commission adopted article 8 as orally amended by Canada and India. Article 8, adopted by the Commission, reads as follows:

"States Parties shall undertake all appropriate measures to ensure to women on equal terms with men, without any discrimination, equal opportunities to participate in the political and public life of the country, and in particular:

(a) To vote in all elections and be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies;

(b) To participate in the formulation of government policy and the administration thereof and to hold public office and perform all public functions at the national and local levels;

(c) To vote in all public referenda;

(d) To participate in non-governmental organizations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country".

31. Article 9 was discussed at the 640th meeting. There was no objection to paragraph 1 of that article which – as the Commission noted – was in full accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Nationality of Married Women, 1957. An oral amendment was made by Belgium, i.e. to replace the words "grant women the same rights as men" by the words "grant spouses equal rights".

32. Paragraph 1, as orally amended by Belgium, was adopted by consensus and reads as follows:

"States Parties shall grant spouses equal rights to acquire, change or retain their nationality and shall require, in particular, that neither marriage of a person to, nor dissolution of marriage from an alien, nor the change of nationality by an alien person during marriage shall automatically change one's nationality, render one stateless or force upon on the nationality of the spouse".

33. During the discussion of the two versions of paragraph 2, both the original and the alternative texts, most representatives expressed preference for the alternative text, which referred to equal treatment of men and women.

34. An oral amendment was made by France to the alternative text of paragraph 2(a), namely to add at the end of the paragraph the words "or certain penal or administrative provisions taken against the applicant".

35. The French amendment was adopted by 2 votes to none, with 19 abstentions.

36. Paragraph 2 of article 9, as amended by France, was adopted by 5 votes to 2 with 16 abstentions and reads as follows:

"The alien husband or wife of one of its nationals may, at his or her request, acquire the nationality of his or her spouse through specially privileged naturalization procedures; the granting of such nationality is subject to such limitations as may be imposed in the interest of national security, public policy or certain penal or administrative provisions taken against the applicant".

37. As far as paragraphs 2(b) and 3 of the alternative text were concerned, some delegations expressed their objection to them, on the ground that these provisions were not in conformity with their national legislation.

38. Paragraph 2(b) of the alternative text was adopted by the Commission as paragraph 3 of article 9, by 13 votes to none with 9 abstentions.

39. Paragraph 3 of the alternative text was approved by the Commission as paragraph 4 of article 9 by 10 votes to 3 with 9 abstentions. The representative of Belgium announced that here hand had been inadvertently raised in the count of the votes against and that had she voted, her vote would have been in the affirmative.

40. Thus article 9, adopted by the Commission reads as follows:

"1. States Parties shall grant spouses equal rights to acquire change or retain their nationality and shall require, in particular, that neither marriage of a person to, nor dissolution of marriage from, an alien nor the change of nationality by an alien person during marriage shall automatically change one's nationality, render one stateless or force upon one the nationality of the spouse.

2. The alien husband or wife of one of its nationals may, at his or her request, acquire the nationality of his or her spouse through specially privileged naturalization procedures; the granting of such nationality is subject to such limitations as may be imposed in the interests of national security, public policy or certain penal or administrative provisions taken against the applicant.

3. The present Convention shall not be construed as affecting any legislation or judicial practice by which the alien husband or wife of one of its nationals may, at his/her request, acquire his/her spouse's nationality as a matter of right.

4. States Parties agree to grant women equal rights with men to transmit their nationality to their children."

41. Article 10 was discussed by the Commission at its 640th and 642n meetings.

42. The introductory part of article 10 was adopted by consensus with minor editorial changes and reads as follows:

"Each States party agrees to take all appropriate measures to ensure women, married or unmarried equal rights with men in the field of education, which education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and the sense of its dignity, and shall strengthen the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. In particular, each State shall ensure:"

43. Paragraph (a) of article 10 was discussed at the 640th and 642nd meetings. The representatives of ILO and UNESCO expressed the opinion that the question of vocational and technical training was irrelevant in paragraph (a). They referred to article 11, where the relevant provisions were included and stressed the necessity to avoid duplication. Egypt suggested the words "and all levels" be included after the words "all types".

44. A new version of paragraph (a) was submitted by France and Belgium (E/CN.6/L.679) which reads as follows:

"Equal conditions for career guidance, access to studies and achievement of a diploma shall be ensured in educational establishments of all categories in rural as well as in urban areas. This equality is to be ensured in pre-schooling, general, technical, professional, higher education, including all other types of vocational training".

45. Three oral amendments were made to this text. Egypt proposed to delete the word "other" before the word "types"; USSR proposed the inclusion of the words "including higher technical education" after the word "higher" and France proposed changing the end of the second phrase to read: "This equality is to be ensured in pre-schooling, general, technical, professional, higher, including higher technical education as well as in all types of vocational training".

46. The final text of paragraph (a), as submitted by Belgium and France and amended by Egypt, France and USSR, was adopted by the Commission at its 642nd meeting by consensus and reads as follows:

"Equal conditions for career guidance, access to studies and achievement of a diploma shall be ensured in educational establishments of all categories in rural as well as in urban areas. This equality is to be ensured in pre-schooling, general, technical, professional, higher, including higher technical education as well as in all types of vocational training".

47. Paragraph (b) was discussed at the 640th meeting.

48. Belgium's version of paragraph 2 as it was presented in document E/CN.6/591/Add.1 was rejected by the Commission by 6 votes to 9 with 6 abstentions.

49. Paragraph (b), as presented in document E/CN.6/591 and orally amended by USA was adopted by the Commission by 24 votes to none with 2 abstentions and reads as follows:

"Equal access to the same curricula, the same examinations, teaching staff with qualifications of the same standard, and school premises and equipment of the same quality, whether the institutions are co-educational or not;"

50. Paragraph (c) of the Belgian version as it was presented in document E/CN.6/591/Add.1 amended by France and India, was adopted by consensus at the 640th meeting.

Paragraph (c) as adopted reads as follows:

"The speedy achievement of co-education which will also help to eliminate any stereotyped concept of masculine and feminine roles at all levels and in all forms of education".

51. Paragraph (d) was adopted by the Commission at its 640th meeting by consensus. It represents paragraph 10(c) of the draft Convention and reads as follows:

"Equal opportunities to benefit from scholarships and other study grants".

52. Paragraph (e) was adopted unanimously by the Commission at its 640th meeting. It represents paragraph 10(e) presented by Belgium (document E/CN.6/591/Add.1), as further amended by Belgium and UNESCO and reads as follows:

"Equal opportunity for access to programmes of continuing education, including adult and functional literacy programmes, particularly aimed at reducing at the earliest possible time the knowledge gap existing between men and women".

53. Paragraph (f) of article 10 was discussed by the Commission at its 642nd meeting. The text of paragraph (f) was proposed by Belgium as it was presented in document E/CN.6/591/Add.1. An oral amendment was made by Senegal, to add at the end of the phrase the words "and the provision of programmes for young girls who have left school too early". The Commission adopted by consensus paragraph (f) of article 10, as presented by Belgium (document E/CN.6/591/Add.1) and amended by Senegal. Paragraph (f), adopted by the Commission reads as follows:

"Measures to reduce the school dropout rate among girls and the provision of programmes for young girls who have left school too early".

54. Paragraph (g) of article 10 was discussed by the Commission at its 642nd meeting. The Commission had two versions of paragraph (g) before it, namely paragraph 10 (e) of the draft Convention (document E/CN.6/591) and paragraph 10(g) of the draft Convention, submitted by Belgium (document E/CN.6/591/Add.1).

55. Most representatives expressed preference for the text contained in the draft Convention (document E/CN.6/591), on the grounds that the words "psycho-sexual education" contained in the Belgian draft were not clear. Though the representative of Belgium explained that the words "psycho-sexual education" were taken from paragraph 132 of the World Plan of Action, the Commission expressed preference for paragraph (e) of article 10 as it was presented in document E/CN.6/591. During the discussion which followed, a number of representatives, as well as the Assistant Secretary-General, underlined the importance of access to family planning for women's emancipation. Two oral amendments were made to paragraph (g) of the draft Convention. Denmark offered to

add the words "and advice" before the words "family planning". This amendment was adopted by the Commission by 20 votes to one with three abstentions. France on the other hand, proposed to add the word "specific" after the words "access to". The French proposal did not meet with any objection by the Commission. Paragraph (g) of article 10 as amended by Denmark and France was adopted by consensus and reads as follows:

"Access to specific educational information to help in ensuring the health and well-being of families, this to include information and advice on family planning".

56. After the adoption of paragraph (g), India offered a new paragraph (h) which would read:

"Nothing in this article shall be deemed to be against such special measures, as may be necessary, including providing special educational institutions and scholarships designed to bridge the gap between the education of girls and boys".

57. Though the representatives were in favour of the additional paragraph submitted by India, some of them noted that it should be used in a broader context, since it concerned other rights as well and therefore should be included in article 4, the discussion of which had been postponed.

58. At its 642nd meeting the Commission adopted unanimously article 10 of the draft, which reads as follows:

"Each State Party agrees to take all appropriate measures to ensure women, married or unmarried, equal rights with men in the field of education, which education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and the sense of its dignity, and shall strengthen the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. In particular, each State shall ensure:

(a) "Equal conditions for career guidance, access to studies and achievement of a diploma shall be ensured in educational establishments of all categories in rural as well as in urban areas. This equality is to be ensured in pre-schooling, general, technical, professional, higher, including higher technical education, as well as in all types of vocational training";

(b) "Equal access to the same curricula, the same examinations, teaching staff with qualifications of the same standard, and school premises and equipment of the same quality, whether the institutions are co-educational or not";

(c) "The speedy achievement of co-education which will also help to eliminate any stereotyped concept of masculine and feminine roles at all levels and in all forms of education";

(d) "Equal opportunities to benefit from scholarships and other study grants";

(e) "Equal opportunity for access to programmes of continuing education, including adult and functional literacy programmes, particularly aimed at reducing at the earliest possible time the knowledge gap existing between men and women";

(f) "Measures to reduce the school dropout rate among girls and the provision of programmes for young girls who have left school too early";

(g) "Access to specific educational information to help in ensuring the health and well-being of families, this to include information and advice on family planning".

59. Article 11 was discussed at the 644th to the 648th meetings.

60. The representative of FAO, stressed that the Commission should give greater consideration to rural women within article 11 by catering to their needs for social improvements and economic opportunities. The Commission might wish therefore to consider the inclusion within this article of provisions for expansion of social services in rural areas, particularly for women involved in agriculture. The representative of the FAO referred in this connexion to resolution 21 on Conditions of Women in Rural Areas, adopted by the World Conference of International Women's Year in Mexico City, as well as to two General Assembly resolutions, adopted at the 30th session, namely resolution 3523 (XXX) on Women in Rural Areas and resolution 3522 (XXX) on Improvement of the Economic Status of Women for their Effective Speedy Participation in Development of their Countries. Reference was also made to recommendations adopted at the 1974 World Food Conference – resolution II on Priorities for Agriculture and Rural Development which called on "the need to involve women more fully in the process of rural development and the implications thereof for education and extension" and resolution VIII on Women and Food.

61. The Commission had before it three texts of article 11, i.e. the original and the alternative texts, contained in document E/CN.6/591 as well as a Belgian version of article 11, presented in document E/CN.6/591 as well as a Belgian version of article 11, presented in document E/CN.6/591/Add.1. The representative of the United States presented amendments to the alternative version of article 11 (document E/CN.6/L.680), which read as follows:

"1. Paragraph 1

(a) Introductory paragraph

Delete the words "married or unmarried" after the words "to ensure to women".

(b) Add the following as sub-paragraph (a):

(a) Appropriate measures, including legislation to ensure equal employment opportunities for women and to prevent discrimination in employment on the basis of sex.

(c) Add the following as sub-paragraph (d):

(d) Appropriate measures, including legislation, to ensure the health and safety of all workers, male and female, in their conditions of employment. States Parties which have enacted laws designed to protect women workers from hazardous conditions of employment shall undertake progressively to extend such protections to all workers, to the end of eliminating differences in treatment of male and female workers and ensuring equal employment opportunities for women.

2. Paragraph 2

(a) Revise sub-paragraph (a) to read as follows:

(a) To make unlawful dismissal merely based on marriage or maternity of a woman;"

62. Article 11, as amended and modified by the United States, reads as follows:

"(1. States Parties shall adopt all appropriate measures to ensure to women, equal rights with men in the field of economic and social life and, in particular:

(a) Appropriate measures, including legislation to ensure equal employment opportunities for women and to prevent discrimination in employment on the basis of sex;

(b) The right, without discrimination on grounds of marital status or any other grounds, to receive vocational training, to work, to free choice of profession and employment and to professional and vocational advancement;

(c) The right to equal remuneration with men and to equality of treatment in respect of work of equal value;

(d) Appropriate measures, including legislation, to ensure the health and safety of all workers, male and female, in their conditions of employment.

States parties which have enacted laws designed to protect women workers from hazardous conditions of employment shall undertake progressively to extend such protections to all workers, to the end of eliminating differences in treatment of male and female workers and ensuring equal employment opportunities for women.

(e) The right to leave with pay, retirement privileges and provision for security in respect of unemployment, sickness, old age or other incapacity to work;

(f) The right to receive family allowances* on equal terms with men.

2. In order to prevent discrimination against women on account of marriage or maternity and to ensure their effective right to work States Parties shall undertake measures:

(a) To make unlawful dismissal merely based on marriage or maternity of a woman;

(b) To encourage the provision of paid maternity leave with the guarantee of returning to former employment;

(c) To encourage the provision of the necessary supportive social services.)"

63. During the discussion which followed and which mostly concerned the original and the alternative texts, presented in document E/CN.6/591, opinion was divided. Some representatives expressed preference for the alternative text, considering it less detailed and more flexible. Other representatives however stressed the fact that the provisions of the original text had been already embodied in the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and therefore should not be omitted in the draft Convention which was being prepared.

64. Most representatives however noted that the best solution would be a united text, namely the alternative version strengthened by the original one. The representative of Iran stated that though in principle they approved the original text of article 11, some paragraphs of this text were not compatible with Iranian law.

65. Indonesia stressed the need to keep the words "the right ... to work, to free choice of profession in article 11, and explained that they might have been inadvertently omitted in the draft Convention presented by Indonesia in document E/CN.6/591.

66. At its 644th meeting, by 14 votes to 11 the Commission decided to take the alternative text as a basis for the discussion.

67. The representative of the ILO stated with respect to article 11 that the ILO preferred the alternative text as it corresponded more to ILO standards and that as far as the labour protection of women was concerned, ILO had requested governments in the light of scientific and technological progress to reconsider labour protective measures on an

individual basis, not on the grounds of sex and that labour legislation was not oriented towards labour protection of workers irrespective of their sex.

68. The representative of the USSR stated in that connexion that the representative of ILO should not take a position in favour of a certain group of countries in the discussion and that she did not understand the ILO position since the provisions of the original text of article 11 correspond to those of the ILO conventions and that finally the representative of the ILO had in her statement omitted reference to the respective ILO conventions aimed at special labour protection of women workers.

69. At its 644th meeting the Commission adopted by consensus the introductory part of the alternative text of article 11, as orally amended by Hungary, namely to put after the words "States Parties shall" the word "undertake to".

70. The introductory part of article 11, as adopted by the Commission, reads as follows: "States Parties shall undertake to adopt all appropriate measures to ensure to women, married or unmarried, equal rights with men in the field of economic and social life and, in particular:"

71. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted by consensus paragraph (a) of article 11, as presented by Belgium and France, which reads as follows: "The right to work as an inalienable right of all human beings".

72. The representative of Belgium submitted the following text for paragraph 1 (b): "The right without discrimination, on grounds of civil or marital status or any other grounds to free choice of profession and employment, to promotion and job security".

73. The representative of Mexico proposed to delete the words "or marital"; the representative of the USSR suggested that the words "to receive vocational training and retraining" be included after the words "or any other grounds".

74. The amended version of paragraph 1 (b), as presented by Belgium and orally amended by Mexico and the USSR, was adopted by consensus at the 646th meeting and reads as follows:

(b) The right without discrimination on grounds of civil status or any other grounds to receive vocational training and retraining, to free choice of profession and employment, to promotion and job security;

75. The Commission discussed paragraph 1 (c) of article 11 at its 646th meeting. As the basis of its discussion the Commission took the alternative text, contained in document E/CN.6/591 (paragraph 1 (b)) which states:

"The right to equal remuneration with men and to equality of treatment in respect of work of equal value".

76. After some discussion, the Commission adopted by consensus the text of paragraph 1 (c) as orally amended by the USSR and which reads as follows:

(c) The right to equal remuneration with men for work of equal value and to the equality of treatment in respect of the evaluation of quality of work of equal value, as defined in the Conventions of International Labour Organization on this subject;

77. After the adoption of the paragraph, the representative of the ILO made reference to the single existing ILO Convention on that subject, namely the ILO Convention No. 100 on Equal Remuneration of Men and Women for Work of Equal Value which was to be revised and to the corresponding ILO Recommendation, and therefore suggested replacing the word "conventions" by the word "instruments" in paragraph 1 (c) of article 11. The representative of the United States of America expressed reservation with respect to paragraph 1 (c) of article 11, as adopted by the Commission.

78. Paragraph 1 (d) of article 11 was discussed at the 646th meeting. The Commission took as the basis for discussion paragraph 1 (d) of article 11 of the draft Convention, presented by Belgium in document E/CN.6/591/Add.1. After minor oral amendments, submitted by France and the USSR, the Commission adopted at its 646th meeting the following text of paragraph 1 (d):

"The right equally with men to social security particularly in the [case] of retirement, unemployment, sickness, invalidity and old age or other incapacity to work as well as the right to paid leave".

79. The representative of Colombia expressed reservation with respect to the word "unemployment" contained in paragraph 1 (d), since in her country there was no corresponding legislation.

80. Paragraph 1 (e) was discussed by the Commission at its 646th meeting. As the basis for discussion, the Commission took paragraph 1 (d) of article 11 (alternative text) of the draft Convention, contained in document E/CN.6/591. After the discussion on that paragraph, during which several modifications were made, the Commission at its 646th meeting adopted by consensus the following text of paragraph 1 (e):

"The right to family benefits on equal terms for men and women".

81. At the 647th meeting of the Commission, the representative of the United States proposed paragraph 1 (f) of article 11, which was adopted by consensus, and reads as follows:

"To ensure equal employment opportunities for women and to prevent discrimination in employment on the basis of sex";

82. At the same meeting the representative of the United States proposed the following paragraph 1 (g):

"To ensure the health and safety of all workers male and female in their conditions of employment. States Parties which have enacted laws designed to protect women workers from hazardous conditions of employment shall undertake progressively to extend such protections to all workers".

83. The representative of the USSR proposed the inclusion as paragraph 9 of paragraphs 2 and 3 of article 10 of the General Assembly Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. As a compromise version, some representatives proposed the consideration of article 9 of the Declaration on Equality of Opportunity and Treatment for Women Workers, adopted by the General Conference of the ILO on 25 June 1975 and contained in document E/CN.6/603.

84. The introductory part of paragraph 2 was adopted by consensus at the 647th meeting as it was presented in document E/CN.6/591, article 11, (alternative text) and reads as follows:

"In order to prevent discrimination against women on account of marriage or maternity and to ensure their effective right to work, States Parties shall undertake measures:"

85. During the debate on paragraph 2 (a), as the basis of discussion the Commission took the text, contained in the draft Convention, presented by Belgium (document E/CN.6/591/Add. article 11, paragraph 2 (a) which reads as follows:

"Prohibiting – subject to the imposition of penalties – dismissal on grounds of marriage, pregnancy and maternity".

France proposed an oral amendment, add the word "leave", after the word "maternity". The Commission at its 647th meeting adopted by consensus paragraph 2 (a) as contained in the draft Convention, presented by Belgium and amended by France.

86. During the discussion of paragraph 2 (b), on the basis of discussion the Commission took the text, contained in paragraph 2 (b) of article 11 of the draft Convention presented by Belgium (document E/CN.6/591/Add.1) which reads as follows:

"Granting paid leave for pregnancy and maternity, without loss of the job held and without loss of social allowances and benefits, the periods of leave being treated as equivalent to periods of work actually performed".

87. Two amendments were submitted to this text: India proposed to insert the words "To progressively introduce" instead of "Granting". France and Hungary proposed the addition of a new phrase, namely, "The cost of this protection should be borne by social security systems, or other public funds or collective systems". Some representatives opposed the joint amendment of France and Hungary, referring to the different practice and legislation in that field. The Commission, at its 647th meeting by 14 votes to 1 with 8 abstentions adopted paragraph 2 (b), as presented by Belgium and amended by France, Hungary and India. The text of paragraph 2 (b) adopted by the Commission reads as follows:

"To progressively introduce paid leave for pregnancy and maternity without loss of the job held and without loss of social allowances and benefits, the periods of leave being treated as equivalent to periods of work actually performed. The cost of this protection should be borne by social security systems or other public funds or collective systems".

88. Paragraph 2 (c) was discussed by the Commission at its 648th meeting. As the basis of discussion the Commission took the alternative text of article 1, namely, paragraph 2 (c) (document E/CN.6/591) which reads as follows:

"To encourage the provision of the necessary supportive social services".

Two oral amendments were made to this text. The representative of the USSR proposed the inclusion of the words "including possibilities of childcare services" at the end of the phrase and the representative of Guinea proposed the addition of a new phrase, namely, "to grant women free medical services during pregnancy, confinement and the post-natal period". The USSR amendment was adopted by consensus. The amendment presented by Guinea was put to the vote and was adopted by 18 votes to 1 with 3 abstentions. Paragraph (c) was adopted as it was contained in the alternative text of the draft Convention, as amended by Guinea and the USSR and reads as follows:

"(c) To encourage the provision of the necessary supportive social services including possibilities of childcare services and to grant women free medical services during pregnancy, confinement and the post-natal period."

89. The representatives of Belgium and France expressed reservations to the USSR amendment on the grounds that this item was included in article 13 of the draft Convention.

90. At its 648th meeting the Commission decided by consensus to consider paragraph (g) which was discussed at the previous meeting in the context of another article.

91. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted by consensus article 11 of the draft Convention, which reads as follows:

Article 11

1. States Parties shall undertake to adopt all appropriate measures to ensure to women, married or unmarried, equal rights with men in the field of economic and social life and, in particular:

- (a) The right to work as an inalienable right of all human beings;
- (b) The right without discrimination on grounds of civil status or any other grounds to receive vocational training and re-training, to free choice of profession and employment, promotion and job security;
- (c) The right to equal remuneration with men for work of equal value and to the equality of treatment in respect of the evaluation of quality of work of equal value, as defined in the Conventions of International Labour Organisation on this subject;
- (d) The right equally with men to social security, particularly in case of retirement, unemployment, sickness, invalidity and old age or other incapacity to work as well as the right to paid leave;
- (e) The right to family benefits on equal terms for men and women.
- (f) To ensure equal employment opportunities for women and to prevent discrimination in employment on the basis of sex;

2. In order to prevent discrimination against women on account of marriage or maternity and to ensure their effective right to work States Parties shall undertake measures:

- (a) Prohibiting – subject to the imposition of penalties – dismissal on grounds of marriage, pregnancy or maternity leave;

(b) To progressively introduce paid leave for pregnancy and maternity, without loss of the job held and without loss of social allowances and benefits, the periods of leave being treated as equivalent to periods of work actually performed. The cost of this protection should be borne by social security systems or other public funds or collective systems.

(c) To encourage the provision of the necessary supportive social services, including possibilities of childcare services and to grant women free medical services during pregnancy, confinement and the post-natal period.

92. At its 648th meeting the Commission decided by 10 votes to 9 with 4 abstentions to examine articles 12, 13 and 14 of the draft Convention separately. The Commission discussed article 12 at its 648th meeting.

93. The representatives of Madagascar and Pakistan stated that in view of their support for the alternative text of article 11 of the draft Convention they would not comment on articles 12, 13 and 14.

94. At the beginning of the discussion, a number of representatives suggested that the Working Group combine both the alternative and the original texts. Preference either for the original, or for the alternative texts was expressed by a number of representatives. On the other hand several representatives observed that article 12 was redundant, since its provisions had been included in article 11.

95. At its 648th meeting the Commission decided by 13 votes to 7 with 3 abstentions to eliminate article 12.

96. The Commission considered article 13 of the draft Convention at its 648th and 659th meetings. At its 648th meeting by 12 votes to 7 with 2 abstentions, the Commission took the alternative text of article 13 of the draft Convention as a basis for discussion (E/CN.6/591). The representative of the USSR submitted oral amendments to the alternative text of article 13, namely to substitute the words "to encourage" by the words "to adopt"; to insert the words "especially women" after the words "to enable parents"; and after the words "parental" to insert the words "especially maternal". The representative of USSR presented a new version of paragraph (a) of article 13, which corresponded to article 9 (4) of the Declaration of Equality of Opportunity and Treatment for Women Workers, adopted by the ILO General Conference on 25 June 1975 (document E/CN.6/603, Annex A, page 1). The representative of India proposed an amendment to that text, to insert after the word "periodically" the words: "in case where such limitations are discriminatory with regard to free choice of employment of women and ...". The text presented by the representative of the USSR and amended by the representative of India, reads as follows: "States Parties shall adopt measures to extend special protection to women for types of work proved to be harmful to them from the standpoint of their social function of reproduction and such measures shall be reviewed and brought up to date periodically in cases where such limitations are discriminatory with regard to free choice of employment of women and in the light of advances in scientific and technological knowledge."

97. At the same time the representative of the USSR proposed the inclusion of the alternative text of article 13, as amended by the USSR as paragraph (b) of article 13.

98. The representative of the United States proposed the following version of article 13 of the draft Convention: (article 12 in the text, prepared by the 26th session of the Commission):

(1) The States Parties shall encourage measures to enable parents to combine fulfilment of family parental obligations with activity in the labour force, in professions and in public life and shall for that purpose promote the establishment of childcare facilities as needed as a co-operative effort of government, business and industry and other institutions and organizations in the private sector.

(2) That appropriate measures be taken including legislation to ensure the health and safety of all workers, male and female, in their conditions of employment.

(3) Protective legislation applying to women only should be reviewed in the light of scientific and technological knowledge, and should be revised, repealed or extended to all workers as necessary.

99. The representative of Iran proposed the deletion of the word "only" in paragraph 3.

100. At its 649th meeting the USSR amendment to the alternative text of article 13 (document E/CN.6/591) was rejected by 7 votes to 6 with 8 abstentions.

101. The alternative text of article 13 was adopted by 10 votes to 4 with 7 abstentions. The second additional paragraph of the United States amendment as amended by Iran was adopted by 9 votes to 6 with 6 abstentions.

102. The additional paragraph presented by USSR to article 13 as amended by India was adopted by 9 votes to 4 with 8 abstentions.

103. Article 13 as a whole was adopted by the Commission at its 649th meeting by 10 votes to none with 11 abstentions and reads as follows:

(1) The States Parties shall encourage measures to enable parents to combine fulfilment of family parental obligations with activity in the labour force, in professions and in public life and shall for that purpose promote the establishment of childcare facilities as needed as a co-operative effort of government, business and industry and other institutions and organizations in the private sector.

(2) That appropriate measures be taken including legislation to ensure the health and safety of all workers, male and female, in their conditions of employment.

(3) Protective legislation applying to women should be reviewed in the light of scientific and technological knowledge, and should be revised, repealed or extended to all workers as necessary.

(4) States Parties shall adopt measures to extend special protection to women for types of work proved to be harmful for them from the standpoint of their social function of reproduction and such measures shall be reviewed and brought up to date periodically in cases where such limitations are discriminatory, regard to free choice of employment of women and in the light of advances in scientific and technological knowledge.

104. In the explanation of votes the representatives of Belgium, France, Indonesia and Pakistan stated that they abstained since the adopted text was confused and contained duplication. This opinion was shared by the representatives of Colombia, Hungary, India and Iran. The representative of the USSR stated that the concept contained in the respective paragraphs presented by the United States, did not correspond to the meaning of the Convention.

105. The representatives of Egypt and the United Kingdom expressed the hope that it would be possible to improve the text in the process of drafting.

106. At its 649th meeting, by 10 votes to 7 with 2 abstentions, the Commission eliminated article 14. At the same meeting by consensus the Commission decided not to consider the Additional Article (document E/CN.6/591, page 118), since its provisions were included in article 11, which was adopted by the Commission.

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Twenty-sixth session

Geneva, 13 September–1 October 1976

Item 9 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON ITS TWENTY-SIXH SEESION

DRAFT REPORT

Rapporteur: Homa ROUHI (Iran)

Chapter ____ . THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN:
EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE, 1976–1985

1. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 633rd, 635th, 637th, 639th and 641st plenary meetings. It held a general discussion on the item as a whole before taking it up into 4 sub-items, namely,

- (a) Evaluation of activities undertaken during the International Women's Year;
 - (b) The programme for the Decade and related questions including technical co-operation activities;
 - (c) Review and appraisal of progress made under the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade and in the implementation of the World Plan of Action;
 - (d) Preparatory work for the 1980 conference.
- (a) Evaluation of activities undertaken during the International Women's Year

2. Under sub-item (a) the Commission had before it a report by the Secretary-General containing an analysis of the information furnished by Member States, specialized agencies

and non-governmental organizations of their activities undertaken during the International Women's Year and evaluation of their impact (E/CN.6/593).

3. In introducing the sub-item 4(a) the Deputy Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, drew the attention of the Commission to document E/CN.6/593 which had been prepared in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 1849 (LVI). The report was based on information from 91 Member States and 3 non-Member States concerning the activities undertaken during the year which was available to the Secretary-General from the report prepared for the thirtieth session of the General Assembly (A/1023) and on further information received from 32 Member States as of 21 July 1976 and from United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations.

4. Several Members of the Commission expressed the view that the Year was one of the most successful United Nations programmes ever undertaken. The year had marked the beginning of the international women's movement and of broader measures for the attainment not only of equality but of development and the strengthening of international co-operation and peace.

5. One representative felt, however, that the activities and strategies for the Year had lacked a rationale and had not been incorporated into an integrated and broad framework. Still another view that was put forward was that it was too early to make an accurate evaluation of the impact of the Year and of the many activities that were undertaken during the Year.

6. The Commission noted with satisfaction the enactment of laws in a number of countries, ranging from the more general types of legislation prohibiting discrimination on grounds of sex, to the enactment of new family codes, or laws on matrimonial reform establishing complete equality of the spouses, to more specific ones guaranteeing equal opportunities or equal pay or employment protection for men and women workers.

7. Several members informed the Commission of the creation in their countries of new government departments for women's affairs, as well as of national commissions, committees, or similar bodies. In some cases, special centres were set up for research and training or for public information.

8. Some members informed the Commission of national seminars and conferences that had been organized in their countries with a view to increasing consciousness and providing the necessary exchange of experience and information.

9. As a result of these activities organized during the Year, it was felt that there was a growing awareness on the part of governments that women's problems were closely related to problems of economic and social development. Realizing that women's problems could no longer be considered in isolation from society's other problems, some governments had also taken steps to create services to improve the lot of women workers. These ranged from improvements in facilities such as child-care centres, maternity and

child-care and medical services which were aimed at increasing the number of women in the labour force and encouraging women to be economically active to the encouragement of leadership at the grass roots level.

10. According to one representative, however, the year had touched the lives of too few women and had foundered on the chronic apathy of governments. A number of representatives did not share the view that governments were apathetic to the problems of women. They all shared the concern, however, for the conditions of rural women in a large part of the developing world. It was stated that higher rates of illiteracy prevailed among them. They had no access to insurance schemes, were subjected to primitive working conditions and received extremely low wages. They also suffered from the absence of technology and were most affected by internal migration, which left them with fewer openings for employment.

11. The full integration of women in the development process, it was stated, required far-reaching changes, not only in social institutions, but also in the psychology of society. In the first place, social structures, institutions and values had to be freed from innate discrimination against women. Secondly, the attitudes of individuals and whole communities should not be allowed to limit women's participation and contribution. Thirdly, women had to acquire a knowledge of political, administrative and economic realities and develop an ability to use that knowledge for their own ends. The goal of full integration of women in the development process placed a responsibility on Governments to eliminate obstacles to its achievement, on the women of each country to participate fully in its pursuit, and on the Commission to ensure that the necessary measures for Governments to take to remove existing obstacles were drawn up in meaningful programmes.

(b) The programme for the decade and related questions including technical co-operation activities

12. For the consideration of this sub-item, the Commission had before it six reports: a report by the Secretary-General outlining action taken to implement the recommendations of the General Assembly for the programme of the Decade for Women and related questions including technical co-operation activities (E/CN.6/594 and Corr.1); a report by the Secretary-General on Technical Co-operation Activities (E/CN.6/595); a report of the International Labour Organisation on its activities of special interest to women (E/CN.6/603); and a report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization outlining UNESCO's activities of special interest to women (E/CN.6/604); a report by the Commission on the Status of Arab Women (E/CN.6/597) and a report by the Latin American Commission for Women on the programme for the Decade for women and related questions (E/CN.6/596).

13. In introducing the report on the programme of the Decade (E/CN.6/594), the Deputy Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, pointed out that the programme was developed under headings related to the threefold theme of the Decade, and was based on mandates from the Conference and the General Assembly. Each activity suggested had as its authority either a specific resolution, or the World Plan of Action

endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 3520 (XXX). She drew attention to Section II of the report which summarized the action taken to date to implement the recommendations of the Conference and the General Assembly into six major areas, namely: the elaboration of a joint inter-agency programme for the integration of women in development; the establishment of an International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women; the organization, in co-operation with the regional commissions, of regional seminars, conferences and similar meetings, and the development of regional programmes; and the initiation of procedures for a system-wide review and appraisal of the World Plan of Action. Special attention was also given to the elaboration of a programme for the use of the resources of the voluntary fund for the United Nations Decade for Women. The programme outlined in that section was rather general in content and dealt mainly with international and regional action. The comments and suggestions of the Commission were invited therefore particularly as regards the phasing of the programme, publicity for the programme, and the national action that should be part of the programme.

14. In referring to the report on technical co-operation activities for the advancement of women (E/CN.6/596), she pointed out that the report described relevant technical co-operation activities relating to women from 1974 to mid-1976 and also future activities that were being planned under this programme. Such activities included the organization of seminars and training courses and the award of fellowships. The report, she explained, had been prepared primarily for the information of the Commission and as a background paper for recommendations to be made in connexion with the Decade.

15. The representative of the International Labour Organisation introduced ILO's report on its activities of special interest to women, E/CN.6/603, which referred to only those activities which were specifically directed to women. She drew the attention of the Commission to the recommendations of the Tripartite World Employment Conference held in Geneva in June 1976. The Conference recognizing that, in many developing countries, women constituted the group at the bottom of the ladder, had recommended that special emphasis should be placed on promoting the status, education, development and employment of women and on integrating them into the economic and civic life of their countries.

16. Recognizing that women played a very important role in satisfying basic needs, the Conference had recommended that the workload of women should be alleviated through improvements in their working and living conditions and the provision in national development plans and policies of more resources for investment in favour of women in rural areas. The Conference had also requested that policies required to meet basic needs should be made part of the International Development Strategy for the Second Development Decade, and should form the core of the International Development Strategy for the Third Development Decade. Accordingly, it was hoped that governments and the United Nations system would finally devote more attention to women's needs, for the benefit not only of women but of society as a whole.

17. The representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, introducing her Organization's report on its activities of special interest to women (E/CN.6/604), stated that since the 1975 Conference in Mexico UNESCO had expanded those activities, and had adopted an integrated approach to problems affecting women. UNESCO's activities for International Women's Year which were outlined in the report fell into four major areas: the promotion of exchanges of information between women in Member States; the relationship between equal education opportunities and equal employment opportunities; activities for the benefit of women in rural areas, including functional literacy programmes; and research on the philosophical, historical and cultural issues which affected women in society. In carrying out those tasks, UNESCO co-operated with non-governmental organizations and national commissions on the status of women. She drew attention to resolution 16.1 adopted by the General Conference at UNESCO at its eighteenth session, in which it had called for a concentrated effort to improve the situation of women in the areas of education, science, culture and communications.

18. In introducing her report (E/CN.6/597) the observer from the Commission on the Status of Arab Women drew the attention of the Commission to the Arab Plan of Action which was adopted at the fourth session of the Commission. Its purpose was to define priorities and planning objectives which would ensure the full participation of women in national development efforts. The Commission was also in the process of establishing a Centre for Information and Research on Women's Affairs.

19. In introducing the report of her organization (E/CN.6/596) the Observer from the Inter-American Commission on Women drew the attention of the Commission to the activities that were carried out and recommendations that were made in connexion with the World Conference of the International Women's Year and to the activities to implement the programme for the United Nations Decade for Women. In that connexion she pointed out that the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) had adopted a resolution on the Decade. The Commission's eighteenth assembly, held at Miami, Florida, (27 July to 5 August 1976), had formulated a regional plan for the Decade. The IACW was in the process of establishing a Multinational Centre for Women, with headquarters in Buenos Aires for the purpose of providing training, research and information programmes relating to the problems of women.

20. During the debate on the Programme for the Decade members of the commission stressed the need for adequate planning and for effective programming, keeping up during the Decade, the momentum gained by the Year and the Conference.

21. The Commission was of the opinion that the Decade for Women was extremely timely in that it coincided with the Second United Nations Development Decade and with the programme for the establishment of a new international economic order, which focused attention on the importance of questions relating to social and economic development, particularly in developing countries. Since women accounted for one half of the international community, it was essential for them to be fully integrated into the development process. Thus it was important that each developing project be planned with

a full understanding of the special factors affecting women. Improvements in the status of women would undoubtedly contribute to the solution of social and economic problems which were being faced by many countries.

22. The success of the Decade for Women it was pointed out could be ensured by establishing close links between the three objectives of the Decade and by mobilizing all the available resources for the purpose. Peace, like development, could be promoted by intensifying the role of women in efforts to achieve international co-operation and peace and in the struggle against forces that threatened international peace and security.

23. Some representatives considered that the Programme for the Decade as contained in the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/594) contained too many research projects. Research according to their view was necessary and should be planned in even greater detail so that it could be translated into effective action. Such research implied the need for a methodology that would produce uniform data, and to that end, it would be extremely useful to study the problems of women in various regions of the world.

24. There was consensus among members on the need for developing and strengthening regional plans and on the need for regional indicators to assess progress achieved.

25. In connexion with the discussion on regional plans and programmes the Commission was informed by the Deputy Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, of a number of regional seminars, conferences and similar meetings that had been organized. The first seminar of the Decade had been held in Argentina in March 1976, under the regular programme of technical co-operation, on the "Participation of Women in Economic, Social and Political Development; Obstacles to their Integration". In the Asian region, a regional follow-up seminar was scheduled to be held in Nepal in February 1977 on the "Participation of Women in Political, Economic and Social Development". A regional Conference was being planned, tentatively for November 1976, by the Economic Commission for Africa, with support from the Voluntary Fund for the Decade, and in Europe a seminar was to be held in the Netherlands in April 1977 on the "Changing Roles of Men and Women in Modern Society; Their Functions, Rights and Responsibilities". The Commission also heard statement from the representatives of the Economic Commissions for Africa and Latin America and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, about the activities that were being carried out or planned for their respective regions.

26. The representative of the Economic Commission for Africa informed the Commission of the establishment of a Training and Research Centre for Women in accordance with resolution 269 (XII) of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa. The resolution had focused attention on the situation of women in rural areas and on the need for national [machinery] to provide support for women working for the development of their countries. The activities of the Centre, which was providing assistance to women in 47 member States included training courses for rural trainers, and the organization of seminars on the establishment of national machinery and consultancy services, which would assist women in planning future activities. Future research to be carried out by ECA

would be concerned with the development of indicators, including means of assessing the value of peasant labour, with village technologies and some of the legal aspects of the problems of rural women. Lastly, ECA was making special efforts to promote technical assistance between the countries of the region, had drawn up a list of consultants and established a volunteer corps, called the "Women's Development Task Force".

27. The representative of the Economic Commission for Latin America informed the Commission of resolution 321 (XV) adopted by ECLA in Quito in 1973, requesting the ECLA secretariat to prepare a study on the participation of women in the development of the region and the measures to be taken to eliminate discrimination and provide educational, employment and economic opportunities for women. To that end, ECLA had held a regional meeting in Caracas in co-operation with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in 1975, which had recommended that the ECLA secretariat should organize a regional conference and draw up a regional plan of action for women in the ECLA region. The Government of Cuba had agreed to act as host to the regional Conference in March 1977.

28. The representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific drew the attention of the Commission to the Asian Plan for the Integration of Women in the Development Process which was drawn up in accordance with resolution 157 (XXXI) adopted at the Commission's thirty-first session held at New Delhi in 1975. ESCAP had accepted the Iranian Government's offer to establish a centre in Iran to be known as the Asian and Pacific Centre for Women and Development.

29. Resolution 157 (XXXI) had further requested the ESCAP secretariat to implement the Asian Plan and to seek the necessary financial and staff resources. Accordingly, the project for the Asian Plan was being formulated by a consultant with UNDP assistance. The Plan placed special emphasis on the status of women in rural areas and would be submitted to the thirty-third session of the ESCAP Commission to be held in Bangkok in 1977. The immediate objectives of the five-year action programme (1977-1981) to be undertaken as part of the Asian Plan, included the adoption of legislation relating to women, the improvement of education, employment and training opportunities, the establishment of a corps of skilled women volunteers and workers from non-governmental organizations and Governments to assist rural women, the development of low-cost technology to free women from unnecessary drudgery, and the establishment of effective rural social services for health education, nutrition, family planning, child-care and social welfare. The most serious obstacle to the implementations of the action programme, however, appeared to be that of financing.

30. Some members expressed the view that the technical co-operation activities included in the programme were extremely valuable, particularly to developing countries as they would help to associate women with the development effort.

31. With respect to the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women the Commission was informed that the Voluntary Fund established by the Economic and Social Council by resolution 1850 (VI) for International Women's Year had been extended by the

Assembly at its 30th session to cover the period of the Decade for Women. In compliance with the General Assembly resolution requesting the Secretary-General to report to the Council at its sixtieth session, an accounting report of the Fund and submitting proposals for its future management and the criteria to be applied for future disbursements was prepared and submitted to the Council. The view that projects concerning women should form an integral part of the regular activities of all United Nations bodies was put forward by one member. AS a matter of principle therefore she was opposed to the creation of new institutions and funds concerned only with women not least because there was a serious risk of such institutions and funds being allocated very scant resources. It was also considered important that the Secretariat unit responsible for women's questions should be assigned more staff and budgetary resources under the United Nations regular budget.

32. In the view of several delegations the Voluntary Fund should be used to promote activities for the advancement of women especially in the developing countries. Of the various activities that were suggested for financing by the Fund the strengthening of regional programmes and the Institute for Research and Training seemed to be favoured.

33. On the question of the International Institute for Research and Training, the Deputy Director of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs informed the Commission that in paragraphs 9 and 10 of General Assembly resolution 3520 (XXX), it had been decided to establish an International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, which would be financed through voluntary contributions and would collaborate with appropriate national, regional and international economic and social research institutes. The recommendations of the Group of Experts appointed by the Secretary-General to draw up the terms of reference and structural organization of the Institute had been embodied in a report of the Secretary-General (E/5772) and had been submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its sixtieth session. In resolution 1998 (LX), the Economic and Social Council had decided to establish not later than 1977 an International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, which should work in close collaboration with the relevant organizations of the United Nations system and national and regional centres having similar objectives. That resolution also requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session in 1976 on the progress achieved in establishing the Institute.

34. The establishment [] International Research and Training Institute for the advancement of [] of representatives to be particularly important and timely.

35. Members of the Commission were in agreement on the priority that should be accorded to action to improve the status of the millions of illiterate and poverty-stricken women in rural areas, who had an important role to play in the development process.

36. Other priority areas that were mentioned were the rights of working women and their improvement through better education, training and employment opportunities. The view was put forward that studies on women's status carried out by the Secretariat should reveal not only existing discrimination but ways an means of improving their situation based on the experience of countries which had achieved it.

37. The Commission was informed of the joint interagency programme for the integration of women in development which was being formulate and for which an ad hoc interagency meeting had been convened from 9 to 13 February 1976 to agree on the conceptual framework for a joint interagency programme and to consider proposals for practical action during the period 1976–1985. That meeting had suggested a preliminary framework for the joint programme and had agreed on a plan for its further elaboration. Another ad hoc interagency meeting had taken place at Geneva from 1 to 8 September 1976 to discuss the plan for the joint programme. The results of those consultations would be submitted for approval by the Preparatory Committee and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination in October 1976, and a report would be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-second session in April 1977.

38. The main objectives of the joint interagency programme were to increase the participation of women in political, cultural and economic life, to accelerate the equality of the sexes in education and training of all types and at all levels, to promote the attainment of social well-being for women and their access to health and social services, to improve conditions of family life, to improve the quality of life of girls and women in rural areas, and to promote the inclusion in national development plans and programmes of measures designed to ensure the full integration of women in the areas indicated above.

39. Members place great emphasis on the need for women to participate in planning and policy-making bodies and to develop special expertise. Women, it was stated, should no longer be content to accept the role of second class citizens for which they had been conditioned too long. It was stated that while valuable suggestions had been made for action at the international level, the Commission should take decisions on the action that should be taken at the national level, thus transforming the World Plan of Action into a practical instrument for programmes at the national and grass roots levels. For this purpose the importance of national machinery for implementation of the programme for the Decade could not be over emphasized. The dissolution at the end of 1975 of national commissions which were created for the observance of International Women's Year had left a vacuum in many countries which needed to be filled.

40. Several members of the Commission also spoke of the important role of the non-governmental organizations. Emphasis was placed on the need to have communication and collaboration between non-governmental organizations and governments. It was felt that non-governmental organizations were indispensable as a means of maintaining communication between the grass roots level and the governments.

(c) Review and appraisal of progress made under the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade and in the implementation of the World Plan of Action

41. The Commission discussed this sub-item at its 635th and 637th meetings. It had before it a report of the Secretary-General based on information furnished by Governments in 1975 and 1976 on measures undertaken under the International Development Strategy of

the Second United Nations Development Decade and in implementation of the World Plan of Action (E/CN.6/598 and Adds. 1 and 2); and a note by the Secretary-General on procedures concerning future review and appraisal of the implementation of the World Plan of Action (E/CN.6/599).

42. The Deputy Director of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in introducing the reports on this item, explained that the procedural aspect of the question was outlined in document E/CN.6/599. The substantive documents (E/CN.6/598 and Adds. 1 and 2) represented an attempt at an initial review and appraisal.

43. She requested the Commission to make comments and suggestions which would be most helpful. The findings and conclusions on major trends and policies with regard to the Status of Women based on a preliminary analysis of reports received from Governments was given in document E/CN.6/598/Add.2.

44. It was proposed by one of the representatives that in view of the limited time and facilities available at the present session, the Commission should set up a committee to carry out such a review and appraisal and to report its findings and conclusions to the Commission at its next session. The terms of reference of such a group might be drawn up at the present session should this idea be acceptable to the Commission.

(d) Preparatory work for the 1980 conference

45. This sub-item was discussed by the Commission at its 635th and 637th meetings. The Commission had before it a note by the Secretary-General on the preparatory work for the 1980 World Conference at the mid-term for the United Nations Decade for Women 1976–1985 (E/CN.6/600).

46. The Deputy Director of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs introduced the note and drew the attention of the Commission to the annex to that document which dealt with the programme budget implications of the Conference; a revised set of detailed proposals would have to be submitted to the General Assembly in 1977. The recommendations of the Commission's present session would be transmitted to the Economic and Social Council's Committee on Review and Appraisal at its next session in May 1977.

47. The Commission considered the 1980 Conference to be an event of crucial importance. It was stated that national and research planning for the Conference should begin without any delay. Two proposals were made with respect to the preparatory work. Firstly, that the Secretary-General should be requested to prepare a report for the 1980 Conference outlining an approach for achieving the objective of the Decade. The report should deal with both national and international policies and stress the need for a full commitment on the part of each country. The approach should be devised to ensure that the economic, social, political and human constraints were minimized and an effective infrastructure for future development was created.

48. Secondly that, in preparing for the Conference, the Commission should not merely draw up a detailed agenda but should also, in consultation with all relevant United Nations agencies, with the proposed International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and with existing and proposed regional centres and programmes, as well as with national bodies, research institutions and experts, endeavour to stimulate national and regional planning in preparation for the Conference.

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Twenty-sixth session

Geneva, 13 September-[] October 1976

Item 9 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON ITS TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION

DRAFT REPORT

Rapporteur: Homa ROUHI (Iran)

Chapter ____ . INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS RELATING TO THE STATUS OF WOMEN (continued)

(a) Draft convention on the elimination of discrimination against women (continued)
Article 15 was discussed by the Commission at its 650th meeting. Most representatives stated their acceptance of the original text of article 15. The representatives of Egypt, Indonesia and Iran, however, expressed reservations with respect to article 15 on the ground that it was incompatible with their national legislation. Egypt explained that according to its law, the domicile of the wife was that of her husband. Iran stated that their reservation concerned paragraph 4 of that article. The United Kingdom representative expressed reservation with respect to paragraph 3, on the grounds that its wording was obscure and thus subject to a wide interpretation.

Paragraph 1. The Commission adopted paragraph 1 of article 15 by consensus, as it was contained in the original text (document E/CN.6/591).

Paragraph 2. As the basis for its consideration the Commission took paragraph 2 of article 15 as it was presented in the draft Convention by Belgium (document E/CN.6/591/Add.1). The representative of Sweden proposed an amendment to the Belgian version of paragraph 2 which read as follows:

"States Parties shall accord to women a civil and legal capacity identical to that of men, and the exercise of that capacity. They shall in particular give them equal rights to conclude contracts and administer property and treat them equally in all stages of procedure in courts and tribunals".

The Commission adopted unanimously as paragraph 2 of article 15, the above text.

Paragraph 3 of article 15 was considered by the Commission at its 650th meeting. By 22 votes to none with 1 abstention the Commission adopted the text of paragraph 3 as it was contained in the draft convention, presented by Belgium (document E/CN.6/591/Add.1).

Paragraph 4. By 20 votes to none with 3 abstentions, the Commission adopted the text of paragraph 4 as it was presented in the draft Convention, presented by Belgium (document E/CN.6/591/Add.1).

At its 650th meeting the Commission adopted by consensus article 15 to be Article 13 of the draft Convention and which reads as follows:

"1. The States Parties shall accord to women equality with men before the law.

2. The States Parties shall accord to women a civil and legal capacity identical to that of men, and the exercise of that capacity. They shall in particular give them equal rights to conclude contracts and administer property and treat them equally in all stages of procedure in courts and tribunals.

3. The States Parties agree that all contracts and all other legal instruments of any kind directed at restricting the legal capacity of women shall be deemed null and void.

4. States Parties shall accord to men and women the same rights with regard to the law on the movement of persons and the freedom to choose their residence and domicile."

Article 16 was considered by the Commission at its 650th, 651st and 652nd meetings.

At its 650th meeting, the Commission considered paragraph 1 including sub-clauses (a) to (h). The Commission adopted by consensus the introductory part of article 16 as it was contained in the original text (document E/CN.6/591).

Paragraphs 1 (a) and 1 (b). At the same meeting the Commission adopted by consensus paragraphs 1(a) and 1(b) of article 16 as they were presented in the original text (E/CN.6/591).

Paragraph 1(c). The Commission took as the basis of its consideration the text of paragraph 1(c) as it was presented in the original text (E/CN.6/591). Pakistan expressed reservation with respect to that paragraph, specifying that the law in that field in Pakistan was under consideration. Indonesia and Iran expressed reservation with respect to the word "dissolution", and Egypt expressed its reservation concerning the words "unwed mothers". The representative of the United Kingdom suggested the word "duties" should be substituted for "responsibilities". The United Kingdom amendment was adopted by 22 votes to none with 2 abstentions.

Paragraph 1(c) as amended by the United Kingdom was adopted by consensus.

Paragraph 1(d). As the basis of its consideration, the Commission took paragraph 1(d) of the original text (E/CN.6/591).

The representative of the United Kingdom proposed to change the word "duties" for the word "responsibilities".

The representative of Cuba suggested the following amendment to the original text of paragraph 1(d):

To delete the words "except in case of her being a single parent", and to add at the beginning of the phrase the words: "Women, whether married or not".

The amendment of Cuba was adopted by 21 votes to none with 4 abstentions.

The original text of paragraph 1(d) as amended by Cuba and the United Kingdom was adopted by consensus and reads as follows:

"Women, whether married or not, have equal rights and responsibilities with men in matters relating to their children. In all cases the interests of children shall be paramount".

Paragraph (e). The representative of India proposed a new paragraph (e), to be added after paragraph (d), which was adopted by consensus and which reads as follows:

"The equal rights of men and women to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and to have access to the information, education and means to enable them to exercise this right".

Paragraph 1(f). As the basis of its discussion the Commission took paragraph (e) of the original text (E/CN.6/591).

The representative of Belgium proposed to put the words "and responsibilities" after the words "recognition of equal rights". The Commission did not object to it. However, the Commission objected to another amendment by Belgium, i.e. to put after the words "and also of an equal right" the words "with regard to all forms of child adoption".

The Commission adopted by consensus the text of paragraph 1(f) as it was contained in paragraph (e) of the original text (E/CN.6/591), as amended by Belgium (i.e. to include the word "responsibilities") and which reads as follows:

"(f) Recognition of equal rights and responsibilities to be guardians and trustees and also of an equal right to adopt children".

The representative of Belgium explained that it meant that adoption implied all legal forms of adoption.

Paragraph 1(g). As the basis of its discussion the Commission took the original text of paragraph 1(f) as it was contained in document E/CN.6/591.

The representatives of Canada offered an amendment to the text, .e. to put the words "recognition of " instead of "provision in law for" and to put the words "husband and wife" instead of "men and women". The Canadian amendment was adopted by the Commission by 11 votes to 8 with 1 abstention.

The full text of paragraph 1(g) as amended by Canada was adopted by 17 votes to none with 3 abstentions.

Paragraph 1(h). The Commission took as the basis for discussion paragraph 1(g) of the draft Convention presented by Belgium (E/CN.6/591/Add.1). By 11 votes to 6 with 7 abstentions that text was adopted and reads as follows:

"(g) Recognition of equal rights of both spouses in respect of the ownership, acquisition, management, administration, enjoyment, disposition – whether free of charge or for a valuable consideration – or inheritance of property, whether it be property owned by one spouse or joint property".

Paragraph 2 of article 16 was considered by the Commission at its 651st meeting.

As the basis for discussion the Commission took the original text of paragraph 2 as it was contained in document E/CN.6/591. The representative of the United States submitted an amendment to that text, i.e. to replace the words "Child marriage and the betrothal of young girls before puberty" by words "the betrothal and the marriage of a child".

By 12 votes to 6 with 5 abstentions the Commission adopted the United States amendment. The Commission adopted paragraph 2 of the original text as amended by the United States by 15 votes to none with 6 abstentions.

The text of paragraph 2, as adopted reads as follows:

"2. The betrothal and the marriage of a child shall be prohibited and effective action, including legislation, shall be taken to specify a minimum age for marriage and to make the registration of marriages in an official registry compulsory".

States in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of India and the USSR. The representative of India stated that she voted for that paragraph as she accepted the principle of registration of marriages, though it was not compulsory in India.

The representative of the USSR stated that she abstained since the Chairman had not taken into account paragraph 62 of Rules of Procedure. Paragraph 3 was considered by the Commission at its 651st and 652nd meetings. The Commission took the original text presented in document E/CN.6/591 as the basis of its consideration. Opinion was divided with respect to paragraph 3. Though some representatives underlined the extreme importance of that paragraph for the elimination of discrimination against women as well as against the child born out of wedlock, others felt that discrimination against the child was outside the framework of the present draft Convention. Furthermore, some representatives considered the question too sensitive to be treated in an international instrument.

However, at its 651st meeting, the Commission by 10 votes to 10 with 3 abstentions, rejected the proposal by several members of the Commission to eliminate paragraph 3. The representative of Cuba presented an amendment to the original text of paragraph 3, namely, to insert the words "legal and" before the words "social protection". The Cuban amendment was adopted by consensus.

The representative of the United Kingdom proposed the substitution of the words "unwed mothers" by the words "single parents". The United Kingdom amendment was adopted by 12 votes to 10 with 1 abstention. Paragraph 3 of article 16 as amended by Cuba and the United Kingdom was adopted by 12 votes to 3 with 8 abstentions and reads as follows: "To eliminate discrimination against single parents and to give effect to the principle proclaimed in the Declaration of the Rights of the Child that all children shall be protected irrespective of the circumstances of their birth, the States Parties shall provide that all children shall enjoy equal rights and equal legal and social protection".

Article 16 as a whole which became article 14 of the text, was adopted by 21 votes to none with 2 abstentions and reads as follows:

1. The States Parties shall adopt all necessary measures to ensure the full equality of women with men in all matters relating to marriage and family relations, including:

- "(a) The Same right as men to enter into the marriage state;
- (b) The same right as men to free choice of a spouse and to enter into marriage only with their free and full consent;
- (c) [] rights and responsibilities [] during marriage and at its dissolution;
- (d) Women, whether married or not, have equal rights and responsibilities with men in matters relating to their children. In all cases the interests of children shall be paramount;
- (e) The equal rights of men and women to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and to have access to the information, education and means to enable them to exercise this right;
- (f) Recognition of equal rights and responsibilities to be guardians and trustees and also of an equal right to adopt children;
- (g) Recognition of the equal personal rights of husband and wife including the right to choose a family name, a profession and an occupation;
- (h) Recognition of equal rights of both spouses in respect of the ownership, acquisition, management, administration, enjoyment, disposition – whether free of charge or for a valuable consideration – or inheritance of property, whether it be property owned by one spouse or joint property".

2. The betrothal and the marriage of a child shall be prohibited and effective action, including legislation shall be taken to specify a minimum age for marriage and to make the registration of marriages in an official registry compulsory.

3. To eliminate discrimination against single parents and to give effect to the principle proclaimed in the Declaration of the Rights of the Child that all children shall be protected irrespective of the circumstances of their birth, the States Parties shall provide that all children shall enjoy equal rights and equal legal and social protection.

Statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Byelorussian SSR, Egypt, Pakistan, Madagascar, Indonesia, Iran, Belgium, India. The representative of the United States stated that she had abstained with respect to paragraph (g) of the draft (paragraph (h) of the draft was adopted by the Commission), since in her view, it did not provide for equality of rights of men and women. If this was due merely to terminology, the United States delegation would be happy to improve the text in the process of drafting.

The representative of the Byelorussian SSR stated that her delegation abstained with respect to paragraph 3 since it believed that the term "single parents" did not correspond to the purpose of the Convention, which was to eliminate discrimination against women. That point of view was shared by the representative of Madagascar. The representative of Egypt stated that they voted for article 16 and they considered that paragraph (g) (paragraph (h) in the draft prepared by the twenty-sixth session of the Commission) was in full accord with the principle of equality of men and women. That opinion, with respect to paragraph (g) was shared by the representatives of Belgium and the USSR. The representative of Belgium indicated further that she voted against paragraph 3 since it preferred the version contained in their draft (document E/CN.6/591/Add.1). At the same time her delegation considered article 16 essential. The representative of the USSR stated that though she voted for article 16 as a whole, she found paragraphs 2 and 3 very inadequate, since paragraph 2 did not treat young girls, who were very vulnerable, and paragraph 3 should have dealt with single mothers and not with single parents. Therefore the representative of the USSR requested the Economic and Social Council to reconsider paragraphs 2 and 3. The representative of Pakistan stated that she abstained since the respective law in Pakistan was under consideration. The representative of Indonesia explained that it voted for paragraph 3, since the words "single parents" were acceptable to them.

The representative of Iran stated that she voted for article 16 as a whole, though he expressed reservation concerning some paragraphs.

At the 652nd meeting the representative of India, observing that the problems of women of rural areas were not sufficiently considered in the draft Convention, proposed an additional article in that respect, leaving to the Drafting Group the question of where to place it. The additional article, proposed by India read as follows:

"States Parties shall take all measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to guarantee them equality as participants and as beneficiaries of agricultural and rural development and particularly the right to:

- (a) Participate fully in the formulation and implementation of development planning from the local to the national levels;
- (b) Receive adequate medical and health facilities, including family planning advice and services;

- (c) Obtain all types of training, formal and non-formal, as well as community and extension services;
- (d) Participate equally in all community activities including co-operatives;
- (e) Obtain equal access to credit and loans; marketing facilities; and equal treatment in land and agrarian reform as well as land resettlement schemes."

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Twenty-sixth session

Geneva, 13 September–1 October 1976

Item 9 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON ITS TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION

DRAFT REPORT

Rapporteur: Homa ROHI (Iran)

Chapter _____. THE UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME FOR THE DECADE FOR WOMEN:
EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE 1976–1985 (continued)

(b) The Programme for the Decade The Commission on the Status of Women

Requests the Economic and Social Council at its resumed sixty-first session to transmit the attached programme for the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session.

I. UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: Policies, Principles and Mandates

1. The policies, principles and mandates for the Programme for the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace are set forth in a number of international documents,¹ including in particular:

(a) The Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and their contribution to Development and Peace, the World Plan of Action for the implementation of the objectives of the International Women's Year, the regional plans of action for Asia and the Pacific and for Africa and related resolutions of the Conference, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 3520 (XXX);

¹ "The inclusion of this paragraph should not be interpreted as indicating a change in the positions taken by certain delegations when the documents and resolutions referred to in

(b) General Assembly resolutions 3490 (XXX), 3505 (XXX), 3518 (XXX), 3519 (XXX), 3520 (XXX), 3521 (XXX), 3522 (XXX), 3523 (XXX), 3524 (XXX) and 3416 (XXX) of December 1975;

(c) Economic and Social Council resolutions 1998 (LX), 1999 (LX) and 2005 (LX) of May 1976.

2. In addition to the above-mentioned texts, a number of resolutions and declaration have been adopted during International Women's Year by the specialized agencies. These resolutions and declarations request action by these agencies in various technical subjects which are included in the Programme for the Decade and for which they should, according to the mandate given to them in the United Nations system, continue to have the technical responsibility.

3. These international documents as adopted, and especially the World Plan of Action, stress the importance of national action, supported by action at the regional and global levels, involving all organizations in the United Nations system. The World Plan and the regional plans provide detailed guidelines for such action.

4. At the same time the World Plan provides that "each country should decide upon its own national strategy and identify its own targets and priorities within the present "World Plan". It also stipulates that by 1980 the achievement of the following should be envisaged and that these minimum objectives should be developed in more specific terms in regional plans of action.

"(a) Marked increase in literacy and civic education of women, especially in rural areas;

(b) The extension of co-educational technical and vocational training in basic skills to women and men in the industrial and agricultural sectors;

(c) Equal access at every level of education, compulsory primary school education and the measures necessary to prevent school drop-outs;

(d) Increased employment opportunities for women, reduction of unemployment and increased efforts to eliminate discrimination in the terms and conditions of employment;

(e) The establishment and increase of the infrastructural services required in both rural and urban areas;

(f) The enactment of legislation on voting and eligibility for election on equal terms with men and equal opportunity and conditions of employment including remuneration, and on equality in legal capacity and the exercise thereof;

(g) To encourage a greater participation of women in policy-making positions at the local, national and international levels;

(h) Increased provision for comprehensive measures for health education and services, sanitation, nutrition, family education, family planning and other welfare services;

(i) Provision for parity in the exercise of civil, social and political rights such as those pertaining to marriage, citizenship and commerce;

(j) Recognition of the economic value of women's work in the home in domestic food production and marketing and voluntary activities not traditionally remunerated;

(k) To direct formal, non-formal and life-long education towards the re-evaluation of the man and woman, in order to ensure their full realization as individuals in the family and in society;

(l) The promotion of women's organizations as an interim measure within workers' organizations and educational, economic and professional institutions;

(m) The development of modern rural technology, cottage industry, pre-school day centres, time and energy saving devices so as to help reduce the heavy work load of women, particularly those living in rural sectors and for the urban poor and thus facilitate the full participation of women in community, national and international affairs;

(n) The establishment of an interdisciplinary and multisectoral machinery within the government for accelerating the achievement of equal opportunities for women and their full integration into national life." (World Plan of Action, article 46).

5. The General Assembly, in proclaiming the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, called upon governments as a matter of urgency to examine the recommendations contained in the World Plan of Action and related resolutions of the Conference including action to be taken at the national level, such as:

"(a) The establishment of short-term, medium-term and long-term targets, and priorities to this end, taking into account the guidelines set forth in sections I and II of the World Plan of Action, including the minimum objectives recommended for achievement by 1980;

(b) The adoption of national strategies, plans and programmes for the implementation of the recommendations within the framework of over-all development plans, policies and programmes;

(c) The undertaking of regular reviews and appraisals of progress made at the national and local levels in achieving the goals and objectives of the World Plan of Action within the framework of over-all development plans, policies and programmes."

6. The Assembly also called for the co-operation of the entire United Nations system in implementing the World Plan, and the development and implementation within the framework of the Administrative Co-ordination Committee of a joint inter-agency programme for the integration of women in development. This joint programme now has the title: "Joint Inter-Organizational Programme for the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace".

7. The Assembly also urged non-governmental organizations to assist in implementing the World Plan and related recommendations of the Conference within their particular areas of interest and competence.

8. It is proposed to implement the Programme for the Decade in two phases 1976–1980 – the year of the World Conference, and the period 1981–1985 constituting the second half of the Decade.

9. The programme outlined below focuses on the first half of the Decade 1976–1980.

10. In order to ensure the effective integrated implementation of the Programme it is essential to strengthen the organizational structures responsible for the over-all co-ordination, development of programmes, public information and evaluation of the Decade for Women, at all levels, international, regional and national. Such structures should be

basically responsive to the realistic needs of women at country level, in urban and rural areas.

11. The Programme, if it is to achieve its objectives will require resources, both within the regular budgets of organizations in the United Nations system and through bilateral and multilateral extra-budgetary funds, including the Voluntary Fund for the Decade for Women.

12. It is recommend that adequate resources from the Regular Budget both for staffing for Headquarters and for the secretariats of regional commissions be provided as they are essential to ensure the continuity in the infrastructure required for the satisfactory implementation of the Programme for the Decade at the international and regional levels.

II. SPECIFIC AREAS FOR ACTION TO ATTAIN THE THREEFOLD OBJECTIVES OF THE DECADE

A. Formulation and Implementation of International Standards to Eliminate Discrimination against Women

International and Regional Action 1976–80

1. Adoption and entry into force of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, with effective measures for its implementation

Adoption of the Convention by the General Assembly and entry into force of the Convention and application of its implementation measures as soon as possible.

2. Implementation of existing international instruments relating to the status of women

(a) Biennial review of the Commission on the Status of Women of the implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and other international instruments with related provisions (Economic and Social Council resolution 1677 (LIII)).

(b) Review of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women when it has been adopted, in accordance with the implementation provisions laid down in it.

(c) Biennial review by the General Assembly and other relevant bodies of progress achieved in the promotion of full equality with men in all spheres of life in accordance with international standards and in particular the participation of women in political life and in international co-operation and the strengthening of international peace (General Assembly resolution 3520 (XXX) para. 12) (Cf. also sect. C below)).

(d) Review of existing instruments by relevant international organizations including the United Nations specialized agencies, to ensure that they do not contain obstacles to the full integration, utilization and participation of women in development with a view to amending them where necessary.

3. Studies in specific areas with a view to the elaboration of new instruments (conventions, declarations, recommendations),

The objective is to broaden the field of studies and preparation of international standards in specific areas, so as to seek and find the best way of introducing new definitions of family functions in terms of rights and responsibilities, with a view to improving the status of women by changing the present patterns of behaviour.

(a) Comparative studies on different aspects of civil and family law to be submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women in accordance with its resolution _____.

Such studies should cover legislation, regulations and customs relating to age of marriage, legal capacity, rights and responsibilities on entering marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution, laws on inheritance and taxation, rights and responsibilities of parents vis-à-vis their children.

(b) Studies relating to the sharing of family responsibilities to be submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women (in accordance with the Economic and Social Council resolution _____).

These studies should take into account the need to reform school curricula to do away with traditional stereotypes of men and women and to renew in the best possible way the picture generally given to boys and girls of the respective roles and of the sharing of the tasks in the family and in the society.

(c) The ILO should study the application of Recommendation No. 123 of 1965 and the elaboration of a convention on the employment of women with family responsibilities.

4. Activities to increase knowledge of awareness of international standard

United Nations regional commissions and regional centres and other concerned international organs as well as competent regional intergovernmental organizations;

(a) should take all appropriate measures to disseminate information on all the United Nations instruments dealing with the status of women and to assist and encourage the governments in their respective regions to ratify and implement these instruments

(b) Promote studies in and between countries to assess the effects of existing legislation and determine further legislative needs; and technical seminars, workshops or similar meetings to discuss these matters at national and intercountry levels.

5. Appropriate Public information activities, [sic] designed to ensure that men and women in urban and rural areas are made aware of their rights and responsibilities under international instruments (e.g. pamphlets, publications, audio-visual means, seminars, meetings, non-governmental activities etc.).

National Action 1976-1980

(a) The principle of eliminating discrimination on grounds of sex should be secured through constitutional and legislative and/or other appropriate measures;

(b) Enactment of legislation to bring national laws into conformity with international instruments and review of national legislation in order to ensure equality between men and women;

(c) Ratification of or accession to relevant international conventions;

(d) Adoption of measures to inform and advise women with the assistance of non-governmental organizations of their rights and responsibilities and to assist them in securing their implementation.

B. Integration of Women in Development

In elaborating programmes promoting the integration of women in development, international, regional and national bodies and organizations may, as an initial step, establish separate programmes exclusively for women where their status is particularly low and where discriminatory attitudes towards them are strong. The aim of programmes for the advancement of women, however, is ultimately to integrate their activities with those of men in all sectors so that women do not remain isolated in their activities. Separate programmes for the integration of women in development should therefore be appropriately phased out as women gain more confidence in themselves and as men accept more readily the role of women as equal partners in development.

Priority should be given to the elaboration of programmes which tend towards the implementation of the new international economic order in order to help eliminate situations in which any human being may be exploited or left out of society and to emphasize that inadequate conditions of the population, including the female population, are closely linked to the inadequate internal structures of countries. Programmes for the integration of women in the process of development must be periodically revised in the light of the socio-economic progress of the countries.

International and Regional Action 1976–1980

1. Structural Organization

(a) All organizations in the United Nations system should participate in implementing the Programme for the Decade.

(b) At the Regional level, the United Nations Regional Commissions and existing intergovernmental commissions should play an important role in stimulating national action through the development of regional programmes for the Decade.

(i) Where they have not yet done so, the regional commissions should create appropriate machinery such as regional standing committees, following the guidelines of the World Plan of Action, article 207.

(ii) Regional bureaux and/or regional research and training centres should also be established in each region.²

(c) Establishment of the International Institute for Research and Training for the Advancement of Women in 1977 in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1998 (LX).

(d) In accordance with the ECOSOC resolution 1998 (LX) the International Institute for Research and Training for the Advancement of Women should work in close collaboration with all relevant organizations without the United Nations system. In particular, it should co-ordinate its activities with those of the regional centres and regional economic commissions and other regional intergovernmental organizations.

(e) The activities of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women should not be restricted to research but should be part of general methodological and research process in order that the International Institute will be of

² The African Training and Research Centre for Women already exists in Addis Ababa. The Asian Institute for Research and Training will shortly be established in Teheran.

major assistance in programming aimed at the integration of women in development. It should:

- (i) Constitute one of the key elements for assisting in the implementation of the programme for the Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, 1976–1985, in accordance with the goals of the World Conference on the International Women's Year,
- (ii) Make a substantial contribution to the preparation of the World Conference of 1980.

2. Improvement of the Data Base and Information necessary for Drawing up Programmes and Policies

(a) General Research and Methodologies

(i) Collection and analysis, by sex, of all census and survey data relating to such factors as urban/rural residence, age, marital status, including consensual unions, literacy, education, income, levels of skill and participation in both modern and traditional economic activities and to household and family composition.

- (ii) Special efforts should be made to measure:
- the extent of women's activities in food production (cash crop and subsistence agriculture), in water and fuel supply, in marketing and in transportation;
 - the economic and social contribution of housework and other domestic chores, handicrafts and other home-based economic activities.

(iii) The development of social and economic indicators, sensitive to the situation and needs of women, in particular, regional and sub-regional indicators to enable better and more realistic evaluation of progress to be made, and to assist governments in using relevant data to increase the contribution of women to development.

(iv) Development of methodologies required to measure the total human resource needs of countries.

(b) Studies in Specific Areas

The studies mentioned in this section all have specific mandates as indicated. Priorities will have to be established among all the studies requested in the light of the survey undertaken under paragraph (i) below. Some of the studies may ultimately be undertaken by the Institute and where appropriate, by interested agencies, within the framework of the joint inter-organizational programme for the Decade.

(i) Survey by 1977 of existing data and information available in United Nations organizations and other international, regional and national institutes;

(ii) Study on the extent to which women participate in agriculture, industry, trade, science and technology, with recommendations for increasing and upgrading their participation (General Assembly resolution 3505 (XXX));

(iii) Preparation of guidelines for non-formal education programmes for rural women, and biennial review by the General Assembly of progress achieved in developing programmes and projects aimed at the full integration of rural women in development (General Assembly resolution 3523 (XXX));

(iv) Studies on the interrelationship of the role of women, population change and development (Economic and Social Council resolution 1854 (LVI); World Plan of Action, paras. 142 and 146; Conference resolution 11);

(v) Study on the impact of scientific and technological developments on the status of women and their contribution to development (Economic and Social Council resolution);

(vi) Study of questions relating to prostitution and the traffic in women (World Plan of Action, paras. 159 and 160; Conference resolution 7);

(vii) Cross-cultural study of the causes of discriminatory customs, practices and attitudes which impede women's contribution to the development process and mechanisms of change (World Plan of Action, para. 171);

(viii) Cross-cultural study of the influence on the condition of women in the family and in society of family and children's allowances and benefits, motherhood awards and similar measures (*ibid.*, para. 134);

(ix) Study on the needs of women at different life cycles: youth, adult and elderly;

(x) Studies in the field of health and nutrition, including the special health problems of women and the improvement of maternal and child health and family planning (*ibid.*, para. 113; Conference resolutions 5 and 9);

(xi) Review of the International Standard Classification of Occupations with a view to redefining current classifications (Conference resolution 23).

(xii) Study on the impact of foreign economic interests on the condition of women (World Plan of Action, paragraph 8).

3. Regional and Global Programmes for the Integration of Women in Development

(a) Elaboration and implementation of a joint inter-organizational programme for the Decade for Women

(i) The joint inter-organizational programme is based on a synthesis of organizations' activities in relation to nine agreed principal objectives and a number of specific objectives relating to:

-national development plans and programmes; political life and international cooperation and peace and policy-making; economic life; education and training; culture and leisure time activities; attitude and practices; health, nutrition and social well-being; family and community life; situations of armed conflict and emergency.

(ii) The synthesis of activities will be updated every two years;

(iii) Areas identified by organizations with the United Nations system for concentrated joint inter-organizational action in assisting countries for the period 1976–1980 are:

-National development planning and evaluation of progress;

-Participation in political life and decision-making;

-Participation in economic life;

-Education and training;

-Maternal and child health, family planning, nutrition and health and social services.

The United Nations organizations have decided that:

(i) Priority will be given to country level activities, particularly in the least developed and the most seriously affected countries with special attention to the poorest areas and most vulnerable groups.

(ii) Public information and communication support activities should be developed as integral inputs of programmes.

(iii) Mechanism for evaluation and monitoring should be a built-in part of all projects.

(b) Development of regional and subregional programmes to promote the integration of women in development

(i) Adoption by 1977 of regional plans of action for those regions which have not yet adopted them;

(ii) Incorporation by 1977 in regional action plans of the minimum objectives set forth in article 46 of the World Plan of Action;

(iii) Regional commissions and inter-regional commissions should in particular:

-Provide governments and non-governmental organizations with the technical support and information they require to formulate and implement effective strategies to further the objectives of the World Plan of Action;

-Assist governments when they ask in the preparation of development projects designed to improve opportunities for women and engage in continuous consultation with UNDP regional officers for that purpose;

-Assist governments and non-governmental organizations to develop policies, strategies and programmes to strengthen the role of women in national development especially in rural areas and to formulate request for technical and financial assistance;

-Promote technical co-operation among developing countries in the region, making use of available knowledge and expertise and encouraging existing sources of bilateral and multilateral assistance to make greater contributions of funds for the financing of programmes for the advancement of women and seeking new sources of funds, including the establishment of revolving funds at national and local levels;

(c) Co-ordination of activities with United Nations Headquarters, between regional commissions, and with interested regional intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system

(i) A network system should be established between United Nations Headquarters, the regional commissions, and offices of the specialized agencies to facilitate the exchange of information concerning projects and programmes, and mutual assistance to strengthen the integration of women in development on a world wide basis;

(ii) Regional commission should establish links with existing and future United Nations centres, including the International Institute for Research and Training for the Advancement of Women and other regional and national centres working in related fields.

(d) Expansion of technical co-operation activities to support the integration of women in development

(i) Special attention should be given to the development of programmes in the following areas:

-Integrated rural development, special attention should be given to women's role as producers, processors and vendors of food, stressing the need for training women and girls. Training is especially needed in modern methods of farming: marketing, purchasing and sales techniques; basic accounting and organizational methods; fundamentals of hygiene and nutrition; training in crafts and co-operatives;

-Technological assistance for women including full participation in community and extension services particularly in the rural areas; including access to loans, credit facilities and co-operatives on the same basis as men;

-Health, reproduction and growth and development, including family health and child health, family planning, nutrition and health education;

-Education and training at all levels and in all sectors including on-the-job training in production centres related to the creation of employment opportunities so that women

can play an economic, social and political role which corresponds to their training in the interest of their society as a whole;

- Youth projects, which should be examined to make sure that they include adequate emphasis on the participation of young women;

- Public administration, with the aim of preparing women to participate in development planning and policy-making, especially in middle- and higher-level posts.

(ii) Resident Representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) should collaborate with governments in formulating requests for technical assistance as part of country programming, at the same time providing for periodic review of the programmes to suggest crucial stress where special support might be needed and to assess their influence and success in improving the position of women.

(iii) Women should participate fully in planning and implementing UNDP country programmes and regional, inter-regional and global projects under the auspices of the United Nations and other international agencies.

(iv) Organizations of the United Nations system especially UNDP and national governments should give better opportunity for women to participate as technical experts in providing assistance among developing countries.

(v) Special attention should be paid to the provision of employment opportunities for women in the developing countries. Short-term training courses should be set up at the rural and smaller urban levels for training nursery school teachers and day care personnel. Production centres should also be established where on-the-job training can continue with provision of marketing facilities for the production centres so that the whole scheme can be made self-supporting. This integrated approach of training, production and marketing should be followed at all levels, starting from the villages right up to the big cities.

(vi) The United Nations specialized agencies, national governments, non-governmental organizations in co-operation with regional commissions should give attention within their existing consultative services to the need for creating a corps of experts to provide guidance to countries on request in the adaptation and implementation of the World Plan of Action in accordance with specific country needs. These experts should have the necessary qualifications to assist intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, regional commissions and national machinery in the following areas:

- Designing of projects adapted from the World Plan of Action and relevant to national needs and priorities.

- The techniques for creating an awareness among women's groups in order to get their full support for such projects.

- The strengthening of national machinery for the effective implementation of the World Plan of Action during the Decade for Women.

National Action 1976–1980

At the national level, efforts to widen opportunities for women to participate in development will require action by the society at large through its governmental machinery, non-governmental organizations and other groups and individuals, all of which may be supported by international and regional organizations. To this end, appropriate machinery and administrative procedures are essential.

The following objectives should be taken into account when national programmes are being drawn up:

- that equality between men and women means equality of dignity and value as human beings, as well as equality of rights, opportunities and duties;
- the removal of all obstacles to women's enjoyment of equal status with men, with a view to ensuring the full participation of women in the social and economic development of their countries;
- the achievement of full participation by women in the task of maintaining international peace and security.

1. Establishment of national machinery and mechanisms

Such machinery and mechanisms (national commissions, women's bureaux, information and documentation centres) should have mandates and resources sufficient to ensure the inclusion of women in planning and other activities for development, and to propose special programmes for women as necessary, based on the World Plan of Action, the regional plans and relevant General Assembly resolutions.

Appropriate national bodies would be entrusted with the responsibility of maintaining under constant revision national laws and regulations and to report to governments on the result achieved every second year with the aim to ensure that the objects of the Decade are secured on a national basis.

In the elaboration of the programme to implement the World Plan of Action, the national mechanism will take into account the opinion of the interested sectors concerned with the integration of women in development.

2. Inclusion in the overall national development plans of programmes to integrate women in development, based on the World Plan of Action, the regional plans and relevant General Assembly resolutions.

3. All national plans and programmes for economic development should include positive policies and targets for increasing the employment of women in both the public and private sectors, so as to achieve equality with men.

4. Establishment of programmes with concrete targets and measures including financial allocations, as well as a system of in-built evaluation to monitor progress in the implementation of the programme.

5. Adoption of measures to ensure participation of women in development planning and policy making.

C. Increased involvement of women in political life and in international co-operation and the maintenance of peace

International and Regional Action 1976–1980

1. Review of the nature and extent of women's participation in political life and in international co-operation and the maintenance of peace

(a) Periodic collection and publication of reports containing data and other relevant information concerning women's participation in public and political life at the national, regional and international levels, including their participation in efforts to achieve general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international controls, international co-operation and peace.

(b) Study, under the terms of General Assembly resolution 3519 (XXX), [] women's participation in the strengthening of international peace and security and in the struggle against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, foreign aggression, occupation and all forms of foreign domination.

2. Development of programmes to increase women's involvement in international co-operation and the maintenance of peace

(a) Development of training programmes for women, especially in the areas of public administration and management and international politics, mediation, peacemaking and peace-building.

Particular attention should be paid to the institutions which endeavour to stimulate greater participation by women in political activities and processes, urban and rural development programmes and communal and youth programmes and to facilitate their access to training for the direction of such programmes.

(b) Establishment in consultation with governments and in co-operation as appropriate with non-governmental organization of rosters of women qualified to participate in decision-making relating to international co-operation and the maintenance of peace.

(c) Organization, in consultation with Governments and in co-operation, as appropriate, with non-governmental organizations, of panel discussions, seminars, conferences and similar meetings to create greater awareness among women of national and international issues.

(d) Organization of courses, seminars, lectures and similar activities to encourage the participation of women in the promotion of friendship between the peoples and the effort to achieve general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

Measures to alleviate the condition of women and children in particular situations of hardship, emergency and armed conflict

(a) Studies (to be carried out every four years) for the Commission on the Status of Women on the condition of women and children in particular situations of armed conflict, and elaboration and/or implementation of international conventions, declarations and similar instruments in this field (Economic and Social Council resolution _____).

(b) Development of measures for the implementation of the Declaration on the Protection of Women in Situations of Emergency and Armed Conflict as set forth in General Assembly resolution 3318 (XXIX).

(c) Study on the effects of apartheid on the condition of women and on their role in the struggle against apartheid, to be submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-seventh session and to the Special Committee against Apartheid.

National Action 1976–1980

1. Increase the participation of women in political life and decision-making at all levels – local, national and international.
2. Establish specific goals, strategies and timetable to achieve the above end.
3. Measures to encourage women to take part on an equal footing with men, in all international meetings on political and legal subjects, on economic development, on planning, administration and financing, on science and technology, on the environment, on human settlements and on population.

Communication support and

III. Informational and Educational Activities for the Decade for Women

International and Regional Action 1976–1980

1. Dissemination of information

- (a) Development and maintenance of channels of communication at the national, regional and international levels (e.g. liaison officers, national correspondents, national and regional machinery, non-governmental organizations, universities and academic institutions).
- (b) Use of the IWY symbol to promote the Decade.
- (c) Publication of the Programme for the Decade, in pamphlet form.
- (d) Publicity for the Decade by means of radio, television, films and audio-visual programmes for all socio-economic categories of men and women.
- (e) Issuance of pamphlets, posters, etc.
- (f) Commemorative postage stamps.
- (g) Commemorative publications, etc.
- (h) Publication of a Decade bulletin (at least twice a year), calendar of forthcoming United Nations events, and special supplements to the Development Forum.
- (i) Dissemination of information on the situation of women in every country through the preparation of a publication such as a yearbook.
- (j) Development of programmes with non-governmental organizations to reach women at the grass roots level.

2. Exchange of information and experience

Organizations of international and regional symposia, seminars, workshops or other types of meetings and briefings.

- (i) For planners and policy makers of relevant Government departments, educational authorities and opinion leaders.
- (ii) Organization of Seminars for writers, journalists, film and broadcasting producers on treatment of news relating to and production of programmes on women.
- (iii) Provision of technical assistance and consultative advice for information programmes, mass media campaigns etc.

3. Establishment of information networks

(a) The establishment of information research centres to serve as key repositories of relevant documentation for all the United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, regional commissions etc. and of audio-visual material, films, recorded radio and television programmes.

(b) The creation of information feed back systems relating to women.

4. Educational activities

(a) Encouragement of the inclusion in the school curricula of teaching about the principles of the United Nations, of human rights, and non-discrimination on grounds of sex, the history of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, International Women's Year, the Conference of Mexico and the United Nations Programme for the Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace.

(b) Encourage the elimination, from school textbooks, of stereotypes about "masculine" and "feminine" roles and occupations.

(c) Undertake research on images of women projected by the media and publish studies on women and the media.

(d) Study of the use of the mass communication media as a vehicle to enhance the status of women and encourage the use of the media in accelerating the acceptance of women's new and expanding roles in society (World Plan of Action para. 174).

(e)³ Develop guidelines or a code of conduct for treatment of women by the media.

(f) Organize training activities for qualified women in journalism and in all aspects of the media – programming, production, management, etc.

(g) Use of radio and television for educational purposes in addition to their informational role.

National Action 1976–1980

All the information and educational activities listed under international and regional levels should be carried out and developed at the national levels by governments, the schools systems, the media authorities, the non-governmental organizations, etc. as appropriate.

IV. Review and appraisal of progress made in relation to the threefold theme of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace

International and Regional Action 1976–1980

1. Development of procedures in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 3490 (XXX) and 3520 (XXX) paragraph 11 for a system-wide biennial review and appraisal of the implementation of the World Plan of Action as an input to the process of review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, taking into account the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order;

³ Note to French and Spanish translators only: use a close translation to "guidelines" but not the terms already used in previous texts.

Such procedures should begin in 1976 and ensure that items on the implementation of the World Plan of Action are included in the agenda of the sessions of ECOSOC and its relevant functional commissions and advisory bodies at two year intervals.

2. Biennial review of material received from Governments, United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations concerning the implementation of the World Plan of Action and the International Development Strategy and determination of major trends and policies with regard to the status of women and their integration in development.

Under General Assembly resolution 3490 (XXX) the Commission on the Status of Women is requested to report its findings and conclusions on major trends and policies with regard to the status of women particularly their integration in development to the Economic and Social Council through the Committee for Development Planning and the Committee on Review and Appraisal.

The review and appraisal of progress made should also include:

(i) assessment of current development programmes and projects, and evaluation as to their relevance for women, the adequacy of current financial support, and whether they meet the objectives and goals of the World Plan of Action

(ii) evaluation of women's voluntary organization projects to determine whether or not they should be strengthened through support from technical assistance agencies and national governments, particularly as they relate to the goals of development and the priority needs of women.

National Action 1976-1980

1. Establish appropriate machinery and mechanisms to undertake regular biennial reviews and appraisals of progress made in implementing the World Plan of Action and the regional plans at the local and national levels.

2. Such reviews should be carried out within the framework of overall development plans, policies and programmes.

3. All United Nations organizations and national governments should be urged to make all efforts for the achievement by 1980 of the minimum objectives set forth in article 46 of the World Plan of Action.

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Twenty-sixth session

Geneva, 13 September-1 October 1976

Item 9 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION
ON ITS TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION

DRAFT REPORT

Rapporteur: Homa ROUHI (Iran)

Chapter _____. THE UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME FOR THE DECADE FOR WOMEN, EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE, 1976–1985 (continued)

(b) The programme for the Decade (continued)

1. At its 641st meeting on 20 September 1976 the Commission established a drafting committee to elaborate the programme for the Decade, taking as the basis for its work chapter III of the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/594).
2. The Drafting Committee held one meeting on 22 September under the chairmanship of Mrs. Azziza Hussein of Egypt. After some discussion the Committee decided to submit all proposals and suggestions for the programme to the Secretariat and request the Secretariat to prepare a working paper for its consideration.
3. At its 653rd meeting on 22 September 1976 the Commission decided to consider in plenary the working paper prepared by the Secretariat (E/CN.6/L.682).

Chapter I. General observations and recommendations

4. Upon the suggestion of Egypt, the title of the chapter was changed to read: "United Nations Decade for Women: Policies, Principles and Mandates".
5. Paragraph 1 was adopted without vote at the 657th meeting with the addition of a footnote requested by Belgium, France, Denmark, United Kingdom and the United States of America, reading:
"The inclusion of this paragraph should not be interpreted as indicating a change in the positions taken by certain delegations when the documents and resolutions referred to in the paragraph were adopted".
6. Several representatives stated that throughout the programme it should be noted in respect of references to certain resolutions of the General Assembly and other United Nations documents the position previously taken by their Governments when the resolutions were adopted remained unchanged.
7. FAO and the ILO jointly submitted a written proposal (E/CN.6/L.692), for the insertion of an additional paragraph, which as adopted.
8. Paragraphs 5–9 and paragraphs 10 with the deletion of the phrase "of great magnitude" were adopted without vote.
9. With respect to paragraph 11, after some discussion, during which it was noted that adequate personnel and resources were essential for the successful implementation of the programme an amended text was adopted.

Chapter II, Specific areas for action to attain the threefold objectives of the Decade

Section A

10. Upon the suggestion of Madagascar and Mexico respectively the above title was changed to read: "Formulation and Implementation of International and National Standards to Eliminate Discrimination against Women".

11. After a brief discussion, paragraph 1, sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) were combined to delete specific dates.

12. In paragraph 2 the representative of the USSR proposed the inclusion of a reference to the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women which was accepted without vote after some discussion.

13. Paragraph 2 ([a]) was adopted without vote, as well as paragraph 2 (c), with the addition of the phrase: "by relevant international organizations, including the specialized agencies".

14. In paragraphs 3 (a) and 3 (b) Canada proposed the addition of a precise reference to the organ to whom the studies would be submitted, namely, the Commission on the Status of Women. Hungary proposed the insertion of a reference to the rights and responsibilities of parents vis-à-vis their children in paragraph 3 (a). France proposed that the latter part of paragraph 3 (b) be revised and her text was accepted.

15. On the proposal of Egypt new paragraphs 4 and 5 were added relating to activities to increase knowledge and awareness of international standards. Both paragraphs were adopted without vote, paragraph 5 including an amendment by Mexico.

16. In the section dealing with national action Sweden proposed a written amendment to sub-paragraph (a) (E/CN.6/L.691), which was adopted without vote as amended by Egypt to replace "the principle of non-discrimination on grounds of sex" by "the principle of eliminating discrimination on grounds of sex". Sub-paragraph (b) was adopted without vote, and sub-paragraph (c), as amended by Canada to insert "relevant" before "international conventions" was also adopted without vote as amended after some discussion to include reference to "non-governmental organizations".

Section B

17. The United States of America presented two written amendments to the first introductory paragraph of this section (E/CN.6/685) which were subsequently withdrawn.

18. At the ___ meeting the Byelorussian SSR and Venezuela both submitted amendments to the second introductory paragraphs of Section B. They subsequently revised their text and presented a joint proposal which was adopted by 18 votes to none with 6 abstentions, reading:

"Priority should be given to the elaboration of programmes which will tend towards the implementation of the new international economic order in order to help eliminate situations in which any human being may be exploited or left out of society and to emphasize that inadequate conditions of the population, including the female population, are also closely linked to the inadequate internal structures of countries. Programmes for the integration of women in the process of development must be periodically revised in the light of the socio-economic evaluation of progress of the countries".

19. Paragraph 1 (structural organization), sub-paragraph (a), was adopted without vote, sub-paragraph (b) with the addition of the words "and existing regional intergovernmental commissions" and sub-paragraph (c) were also adopted without vote.

20. Sub-paragraph (d) in its amended form was adopted without vote. Iran proposed a new sub-paragraph (e) concerning the activities of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (E/CN.6/L.694) which was further modified during the discussion, and adopted by 11 votes to 2, with 10 abstentions.

21. Paragraph 2, sub-paragraphs (a) and (b), were adopted without vote. Paragraph 3, sub-paragraph (a), (b) and (c), were adopted with minor amendments without vote. Sub-paragraph (d) (i) was adopted without vote with revisions relating to education and training, and an additional sub-paragraph concerning technological assistance, access to credit and co-operatives for women. Sub-paragraphs (d) (ii), (ii), (iv) (with minor amendments) and (v) were adopted without vote. Sub-paragraph (vi) was deleted. An additional sub-paragraph proposed by the United States of America (E/CN.6/L.693/Rev.1) recommending the establishment of a corps of regional experts was adopted without vote as amended by Egypt.

22. The introductory paragraphs relating to national action were adopted without vote. Paragraphs 1-5 were also adopted without vote with minor amendments.

Section C

23. Paragraph 1 (a) was adopted without vote with the addition of the phrase "under strict and effective international control" proposed by the United States of America.

24. After some discussion of the specific reference to General Assembly resolution 3519 (XXX) in paragraph 1 (b) the Commission adopted the paragraph by 16 votes to 6 with 2 abstentions. Several representatives expressed reservations to this paragraph in line with the position taken when the resolution was adopted.

25. Paragraph 2, sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) with minor amendments were adopted without vote. Sub-paragraph (c) was also adopted without vote, with the deletion of the phrase "including the establishment of a new international economic order". Sub-paragraph (d) was adopted without vote with a minor addition.

26. Paragraph 3 (a) and (b) with minor changes were adopted without vote. Sub-paragraph (c) was amended by the German Democratic Republic to call for the report on the effects of

apartheid on the status of women to be submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-seventh session and to the Special Committee against Apartheid. It was adopted without vote.

27. Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of national action were adopted without vote.

Chapter III. Informational and educational activities
for the Decade for Women

(To be completed when the Commission has reviewed
chapter III in document E/CN.6/L.681/Add.4.)

Chapter IV. Review and appraisal of progress made in
relation to the threefold theme of the United Nations
Decade for Women [] development and peace

28. The Commission adopted this chapter without vote with minor amendments.

29. The programme as a whole, as amended, was adopted without vote.