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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
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Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda

INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS RELATING TO THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Draft convention on the elimination of discrimination against women
Article 21

Statement submitted by the International Alliance of Women, the International Council of Women (non-governmental organizations in category I in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council), the International Federation of University Women, the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations, the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, the International Federation of Women Lawyers, the Pan Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association and the International Federation of Women in Legal Careers (non-governmental organizations in category II in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council)

The Secretary-General has received the following statement which is circulated in accordance with paragraphs 29 and 30 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV):

We wish to draw your attention to the statement of the International Federation of University Women quoted on page 39 of document E/CN.6/591: "The International Federation of University Women believes that the creation of a special committee might reduce the importance of the Commission on the Status of Women unless it is a sub-committee of the latter". After hearing the debate on the afternoon of Tuesday, 21 September, when Mrs. Sipilä drew attention to the report of the Group of Experts on the Structure of the United Nations System (the relevant paragraphs are 54 and 62) we feel that the issue is much more than a minimization of importance; it is, as Mrs. Sipilä said, a danger of abolition. We therefore urge the members of the Commission to choose the original text of Article 21 for we believe that the Commission has still many tasks to fulfil, beyond the implementation of this Convention, in the pursuance of its mission.