

Part two
BACKGROUND TO THE CONFERENCE

Chapter IV

CONSTITUTION OF THE CONFERENCE

1. The deep concern of the United Nations for the rights of women found expression in the Charter of the United Nations, in the Preamble to which the peoples of the United Nations reaffirmed faith in the equal rights of men and women. Through the work of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, that concern has led to concrete action.

2. At its twenty-seventh session, the General Assembly, in its resolution 3010 (XXVII), proclaimed the year 1975 International Women's Year and decided to devote the year to intensified action:

"(a) To promote equality between men and women;

"(b) To ensure the full integration of women in the total development effort, especially by emphasizing women's responsibility and important role in economic, social and cultural development at the national, regional and international levels, particularly during the Second United Nations Development Decade;

"(c) To recognize the importance of women's increasing contribution to the development of friendly relations and co-operation among States and to the strengthening of world peace."

3. At its twenty-fifth session, in January-February 1974, the Commission on the Status of Women recommended to the Council a programme of activities to be carried out during the International Women's Year. ^{1/} The programme included the organization of a world conference "as a focal point of the international observance of the Year".

4. The Council at its fifty-sixth session approved the recommendations of the Commission and called upon the Secretary-General to convene such a conference in consultation with Member States, specialized agencies and interested non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council (Economic and Social Council resolution 1851 (LVI)).

5. In the same resolution, the Economic and Social Council set forth as follows the objectives of the Conference: "to examine to what extent the organizations of the United Nations system have implemented the recommendations for the elimination of discrimination against women made by the Commission on the Status of Women since its establishment, and to launch an international action programme including short-term and long-term measures aimed at achieving the integration of women as full and equal partners with men in the total development effort and eliminating discrimination on grounds of sex, and at achieving the widest involvement of women in strengthening international peace and eliminating racism and racial discrimination".

^{1/} Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 4, (E/5452), annex V.

6. On 5 July 1974, the Secretary-General of the United Nations appointed Helvi L. Sipilä, Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, as Secretary-General of the International Women's Year, 1975, and of the Conference.

7. At its resumed fifty-seventh session, the Council decided to accept with appreciation the invitation of the Government of Mexico to act as host to the Conference at Mexico City in June-July 1975 (Council decision 58 (LVII)).

8. The Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1851 (LVI), requested the Secretary-General, in drawing up the agenda, to focus on two main questions: "(a) the evaluation of current trends and changes in the roles of women and men in political, social, economic, family and cultural life, including sharing of responsibilities and decision-making" and "(b) the examination of the major obstacles which hinder the contribution of women and men as full partners in the total development efforts and in sharing its benefits in both rural and urban areas".

9. A number of regional and interregional meetings and consultations held in 1974 constituted part of the substantive preparation for the Conference. They included: (a) the International Forum on the Role of Women in Population and Development (February-March 1974); (b) the Regional Consultation for Asia and the Far East on Integration of Women in Development (May 1974); (c) the Regional Consultation for Africa on the Integration of Women in Development (June, 1974); (d) the United Nations Interregional Seminar on National Machinery to Accelerate the Integration of Women in Development and to Eliminate Discrimination on Grounds of Sex (September 1974); (e) and the Regional Consultation for Latin America on Integration of Women in Development (April-May 1975).

10. The General Assembly, in its resolution 3276 (XXIX), requested the Conference to submit, if possible, such proposals and recommendations as it deemed appropriate to it at its seventh special session, to be held in September 1975; and decided to consider at its thirtieth session an item entitled "International Women's Year, including the proposals and recommendations of the Conference of the International Women's Year", and an item entitled "Status and role of women in society, with special reference to the need for achieving equal rights for women and to women's contribution to the attainment of the goals of the Second United Nations Development Decade, to the struggle against colonialism, racism and racial discrimination and to the strengthening of international peace and co-operation between States".

11. By its resolution 3277 (XXIX) the General Assembly established a Consultative Committee for the Conference of the International Women's Year to advise the Secretary-General on the preparation of an international plan of action to be finalized by the Conference. The Consultative Committee met at United Nations Headquarters from 3 to 14 March 1975 and discussed the draft World Plan of Action.

Part three
PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE

Chapter V

ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

12. The World Conference of the International Women's Year organized by the United Nations was held at Mexico City from 19 June to 2 July 1975.

A. Participants

13. The General Assembly, in its resolution 3276 (XXIX), decided to invite all States to participate in the Conference of the International Women's Year. Representatives of the following 133 States took part in the Conference:

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|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Afghanistan | El Salvador | Lesotho |
| Albania | Equatorial Guinea | Liberia |
| Algeria | Ethiopia | Libyan Arab Republic |
| Argentina | Fiji | Luxembourg |
| Australia | Finland | Madagascar |
| Austria | France | Malaysia |
| Bahamas | Gabon | Mali |
| Bangladesh | Gambia | Mauritania |
| Barbados | German Democratic Republic | Mauritius |
| Belgium | Germany, Federal Republic of | Mexico |
| Bolivia | Ghana | Monaco |
| Botswana | Greece | Mongolia |
| Brazil | Grenada | Morocco |
| Bulgaria | Guatemala | Nepal |
| Burundi | Guinea | Netherlands |
| Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic | Guyana | New Zealand |
| Canada | Haiti | Nicaragua |
| Central African Republic | Holy See | Niger |
| Chile | Honduras | Nigeria |
| China | Hungary | Norway |
| Colombia | Iceland | Oman |
| Congo | India | Pakistan |
| Costa Rica | Indonesia | Panama |
| Cuba | Iran | Paraguay |
| Cyprus | Iraq | Peru |
| Czechoslovakia | Ireland | Philippines |
| Dahomey | Israel | Poland |
| Democratic People's Republic of Korea | Italy | Portugal |
| Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam | Ivory Coast | Qatar |
| Democratic Yemen | Jamaica | Republic of Korea |
| Denmark | Japan | Republic of South Viet-Nam |
| Dominican Republic | Jordan | Romania |
| Ecuador | Kenya | Rwanda |
| Egypt | Kuwait | San Marino |
| | Lebanon | Saudi Arabia |
| | | Senegal |

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| Sierra Leone | Tunisia | United Republic of |
| Somalia | Turkey | Tanzania |
| Spain | Uganda | United States of |
| Sri Lanka | Ukrainian Soviet | America |
| Sudan | Socialist Republic | Upper Volta |
| Swaziland | Union of Soviet | Uruguay |
| Sweden | Socialist Republics | Venezuela |
| Switzerland | United Arab Emirates | Yugoslavia |
| Syrian Arab Republic | United Kingdom of | Zaire |
| Thailand | Great Britain and | Zambia |
| Togo | Northern Ireland | |
| Trinidad and Tobago | United Republic of Cameroon | |

14. The Secretary-General of the United Nations was present at the Conference. Representatives of the following offices of the Secretariat were also present:

- Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- Division of Human Rights
- Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
- Economic Commission for Latin America
- Economic Commission for Africa
- Economic Commission for Western Asia
- United Nations Environment Programme
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization
- Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements

15. The following United Nations bodies were represented:

- United Nations Children's Fund
- United Nations Development Programme
- United Nations Fund for Population Activities
- United Nations Institute for Training and Research
- United Nations Research Institute for Social Development
- United Nations Social Defence Research Institute
- World Food Programme (joint United Nations/FAO programme)

16. The following specialized agencies were represented:

- International Labour Organisation
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- International Civil Aviation Organization
- World Health Organization

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
World Intellectual Property Organization

17. The International Atomic Energy Agency was also represented.

18. The following Governments were represented by observers:

Netherlands Antilles

Papua New Guinea

Surinam

19. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 3276 (XXIX), the national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity and/or by the League of Arab States in their respective regions were invited to participate in the Conference as observers, in accordance with the practice of the United Nations. Representatives of the following movements attended as observers:

People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA)

National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA)

African National Congress (ANC, South Africa)

South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO)

African National Council (ANC, Zimbabwe)

National Liberation Movement of Comoro (MOLINACO)

Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)

20. The Commission on Human Rights was represented by an observer.

21. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented by observers:

Commission of the European Communities

Council for Mutual Economic Assistance

Inter-American Development Bank

League of Arab States

Organization of American States

Inter-American Commission of Women

Organization of African Unity

Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development

22. In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 73 (LVIII), observers of 114 non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or on the Roster attended the Conference.

23. The list of participants is given in document E/CONF.66/INF.2.

B. Opening of the Conference and election of the President

24. The Conference was opened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. In his statement he noted that the World Conference of the International Women's Year dealt with one of the most important issues of the day, the contribution of women to modern society. It was significant that the Conference, which marked an historic moment in the struggle for women's rights, was taking place on the thirtieth anniversary of the creation of the United Nations.
25. He paid a tribute to the Commission on the Status of Women for its pioneering work; to the Secretary-General of the International Women's Year and of the Conference and to her staff for their tireless efforts; and to the non-governmental organizations and concerned individuals everywhere for their help and encouragement. He also expressed gratitude, on behalf of the United Nations, for the invaluable assistance and hospitality shown by the Government and people of Mexico throughout the preparations for the Conference.
26. The growing realization that important world problems were interlinked and could not be solved in isolation had given impetus to the simultaneous study of problems relating to the role of women in society and those of food, population, the environment, human settlements, health and education. The Conference should therefore be seen in the context of a universal search for a better understanding of the complexities of modern society and of the long-term interests of the human race as a whole.
27. The issues facing the Conference were not simply questions of basic human rights, of economics or of legal rights; they involved differences of history and traditions as well as the identification of obstacles to the achievement of the purpose of the United Nations, proclaimed in the Charter, to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom. It was fundamentally wrong, therefore, to regard the issue of women's rights and opportunities as one of less importance than other social, humanitarian and economic problems. That attitude ignored the fact that those problems could be solved only with the active involvement of women and it denied the right of women to participate fully in the solution of problems common to the whole human race. It was hoped that the Year and the Conference would serve to correct that attitude.
28. The Secretary-General of the United Nations further remarked that the Conference would be the first major step in a concerted and world-wide endeavour to provide true equality for women in society, to chart a new course and to end the tendency to separate the sexes in matters of education, opportunity and economic priorities.
29. In conclusion, he stressed the belief that women could play a crucial role in the re-examination of basic values and in charting the future course for the world as a whole. He was confident that the Conference would represent a turning-point in changing attitudes, prejudices and assumptions that were based neither on human equity nor on practical common sense.
30. At its 1st plenary meeting, the Conference also heard an address by His Excellency Mr. Luis Echeverría Álvarez, President of Mexico. Extending a cordial welcome to the participants, he said that the Conference provided an opportunity to find methods and strategies which would afford women the same opportunities as

men to participate actively in the development process and in achieving world peace. It was indisputable that throughout the centuries women had, in varying degrees, been relegated to a marginal position and that even today they did not enjoy complete de jure or de facto equality with men.

31. The women of the entire world, whatever the differences between them, had in common the painful experience of receiving or having received unequal treatment. As their awareness of that fact increased, they would find themselves becoming natural allies of the struggle against any form of oppression. For that reason, women constituted an enormous revolutionary reserve in the world of today.

32. Mr. Echeverría said that no woman was more discriminated against or exploited than the woman without bread, school or medicines for her children. He added that in order to further the participation of women at all levels and involve them in development planning he felt that it would be necessary to link those purposes with the actions taken on other fronts against armaments, neo-colonialism, foreign domination, racial discrimination, interference in the domestic affairs of other States and the threat of the use of force and with the actions taken to prevent the violation of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of peoples. In the struggle to achieve those objectives, women would contribute significantly to the global cause of peace.

33. Women everywhere should become fully conscious of their marginal position in society in order to improve their status as well as to work for the betterment of human society as a whole. The Conference was therefore a Conference of women and men working together to improve the status of the female population.

34. In their role as mothers, women should ensure that their children saw them participating actively in the process of collective change. Men and women had identical responsibilities in society and in the family. A more equitable balance could be gained if the former played a larger role in community life and the latter in the home. All tasks were appropriate to either sex.

35. In order to equip women for such change, a corresponding change would have to take place in the orientation of education and modes of work. The incorporation of women into various facets of the development process, for example, into the labour force, was not in itself a liberating factor. Structural changes in conditions of work and social life must also take place. Otherwise, the working woman might contribute to her own oppression.

36. Mr. Echeverría saw the need for social change in the situation of women as being vitally linked to a new international economic order. Women in the third world had to fight for equality of material conditions and for equal educational and employment opportunities. He warned that as they gained apparent new freedoms women must guard against repeating the pattern of alienation and exploitation which was the mark of unjust societies. He concluded that if women remained outside the global process of revolution they would make no substantial advances. Violence, which was at the root both of the oppression of women and of international crises and war, must end. He hoped that the recommendations of the Conference would exert a profound influence on the youth of today and on the quality of life of future generations by providing an integrated approach to the problems of equality, development and peace.

37. At its 1st plenary meeting, the Conference elected by acclamation Mr. Pedro Ojeda Paulada, Attorney-General of Mexico, as President of the World Conference of the International Women's Year. The President then addressed the Conference, emphasizing that the interest shown in the Conference by the number of delegations and observers attending it was sufficient proof of the interest that it has aroused in every corner of the earth. The task of the Conference was to prepare a programme of action to include both short- and long-term measures to ensure the integration of women as participants on an equal basis with men in the effort to achieve full development, to eliminate discrimination based on sex and to collaborate in strengthening international peace.

38. He mentioned the important contribution that the participants expected from the representatives of bodies within the United Nations system, which would have to implement the recommendations of the Conference. He also spoke of the invaluable discussions taking place in the parallel meetings of the International Women's Year Tribune, the Seminar on Women and Development and the Journalists Encounter. He concluded by expressing his confidence that a new phase of the work of the United Nations would be initiated at the Conference, a phase the purpose of which would be to find methods of integrating women effectively into the efforts being made by mankind to establish peace upon just, rational and equitable bases. In fulfilling its task, the Conference would be contributing to making the establishment of a new world economic order a reality.

39. In an address at the same meeting, the Secretary-General of the Conference and of the Year said that the Conference was the first intergovernmental meeting the agenda of which was devoted to the situation of women in society and the first at which women formed part of virtually every delegation. She hoped that a precedent would thereby be set and that future international meetings, whether on political or economic affairs, on disarmament, trade or human settlements, would have equitable representation of women and men.

40. The Conference should keep in mind that women and men were equally affected by the future and that they therefore had a joint responsibility for determining that future. Men could not claim an exclusive right to shape the world's destiny and women, on their part, should also take up the challenge to share decision-making with men.

41. It was customary to regard problems facing women as independent of other problems confronting society. One of the principal goals of the Year was precisely to break through such separatist thinking. The denial of women's rights and opportunities was at the very root of widespread social and economic ills such as illiteracy, malnutrition, mass poverty, maternal and child mortality and unchecked rates of population growth.

42. Despite the fact that conditions varied significantly between and within countries, owing to cultural, political, social and economic factors, there was no conflict between the real aspirations of women for social justice and a better life. Women should therefore support and reinforce one another in a joint effort to create a better world.

43. There was no country in the world where women had representation in decision-making that was proportionate to their numbers. In affairs of State, power rested totally in the hands of men. The participation of women in international affairs

was also very low and was reflected in the secretariats of bodies within the United Nations system. Radical action was required to break the vicious circle by providing women with equal opportunities for education and training and equal opportunities to become economically independent so as to play a full role in society.

44. Although women were increasingly challenging sex stereotypes, there was still an urgent need to change the attitudes of both women and men in that regard. It would be futile to deal with the low status of women independently of the social and economic problems confronting society as a whole. The struggle of women for equality was no less valid than the struggle of colonial peoples for fundamental human rights, autonomy and independence.

45. The Secretary-General of the Conference and of the Year drew the attention of the Conference to the forthcoming seventh special session of the General Assembly, which would examine the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. Serious attempts were being made to find a new world economic order so as to solve a range of economic and political problems still affecting the peace and stability of the world. Women should realize that they had a significant role to play in the solution of those problems. Failure to contribute might prolong social stagnation and discrimination on the basis of sex.

46. In conclusion, she urged the Conference to agree on a new approach to development and to bring about a new solidarity among women as well as a partnership with men, leading to a new era of social and economic co-operation between all countries and all regions of the world.

C. Other addresses and messages

47. In an address to the Conference at its 3rd plenary meeting, Her Excellency Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, stated that the Conference marked the first time that the need for a concerted programme of action for the advancement of women had assumed such high priority at the international level. It provided an opportunity for the world community to take a positive and constructive view of the material benefits to the human race to be won from the integration of women in development and the spiritual and cultural benefits to be gained from their significant contribution to peace and international understanding. A tremendous responsibility rested with the Conference to restructure human society so as to present a radical alternative to all concepts that were challenged there.

48. Women all over the world were united in a single goal - that of attaining true equality with men in all spheres of life and of freeing themselves from discrimination based on sex in respect of civil, political, cultural, economic and legal rights. Those rights included the right to vote, the right to own, inherit and bequeath property, the right to equal opportunities with men in employment and the right to equal pay for work of equal value.

49. The unified approach to development was relevant to the strategies for improving the status of women for, in her view, those issues were at the core of the problems of development, social renewal and change in many countries. Solutions to those problems went hand in hand with policies for rapid economic expansion, for more equitable income distribution and for wider participation by women in decision-

making. The Conference should not be seen as the culmination of three decades of united efforts on the part of the international community to achieve a niche in society for women, since they were an integral part of society but, in recognition of the dignity of womanhood and motherhood, as the beginning of an era of progress in peace and harmony for the whole human family.

50. At its 7th plenary meeting, on 23 June 1975, the Conference heard an address by His Excellency, Mr. Olof Palme, Prime Minister of Sweden. He stated that the problems of women were not separate from the problems of the development of society at large. If women were to be liberated, conditions of poverty, exploitation and hunger would have to be eliminated. Therefore he saw the call of the developing countries for a new world economic order as basic to the issues before the Conference. Thus, the efforts to achieve equality between men and women must be integrated with the struggle for economic and social equality within and between countries.

51. Although in many industrialized countries the formal barriers between women and men had been broken down, nevertheless, in actual fact, women were expected to assume the major responsibility for the home and to accept an inferior position in employment and in society. There was a growing realization, he asserted, that a changed role for women required a changed role for men. An extensive transformation of society was therefore needed to bring about the emancipation of women, the liberation of men and a deeper response to the needs of children. Women would only become emancipated as they became more aware of their potentialities and rights.

52. Messages from the following Heads of State or Government were also read out to the Conference beginning with its 2nd meeting: Her Excellency Maria Estela Martínez de Perón, President of Argentina; Her Majesty Queen Alia of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; His Excellency N. Podgorny, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; His Holiness Pope Paul VI; His Excellency J. B. Tito, President of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; His Excellency Todor Zhivkov, President of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria; His Excellency Dr. Joaquín Balaguer, President of the Dominican Republic; His Excellency Nicolae Ceausescu, President of the Socialist Republic of Romania; His Excellency W. Stoph, Chairman of the Council of State of the German Democratic Republic; His Excellency Henryk Jablonski, President of the Council of State of the Polish People's Republic; His Excellency Mr. Takeo Miki, Prime Minister of Japan; Her Excellency Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India; His Excellency Mr. Mahomed Siyaad Barre, President of the Supreme Revolutionary Council of the Somali Democratic Republic and Chairman of the Organization of African Unity; His Excellency Mr. Gaafar Mohamed Nimeri, President of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan; His Excellency the Honourable Eric Gairy, Prime Minister of Grenada; His Excellency Brigadier General Teferi Bante, President of the Provisional Military Government of Ethiopia; His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Sekou Touré, President of the Republic of Guinea; General Omar Torrijos Herrera, Chief of the Government of Panama; His Excellency Brigadier General Guillermo Rodríguez Lara, President of the Republic of Ecuador; His Excellency the Honourable Professor Aldo Moro, President of the Council of Ministers of Italy; and His Excellency Constantin Tsatsos, President of Greece.

D. Adoption of the rules of procedure

53. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 June 1975, the Conference adopted as its rules of procedure the provisional rules of procedure contained in document E/CONF.66/2, with the following amendments:

(a) In rule 1 (Composition of delegations) the number of accredited representatives was increased from "two" to "four";

(b) Rule 6 was amended to read as follows:

"The Conference shall elect the following officers: a President, 46 Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur-General as well as a Chairman for each of the main committees provided for in rule 42. Each committee shall elect three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur."

E. Adoption of the agenda

54. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 June 1975, the Conference decided to amend the wording of item 8 of the provisional agenda contained in document E/CONF.66/1. It then adopted the text as amended. The agenda as adopted (E/CONF.66/7) was as follows:

1. Opening of the Conference and election of the President
2. Adoption of the rules of procedure
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Establishment of committees and organization of work
5. Election of officers other than the President
6. Credentials of representatives to the Conference
 - (a) Appointment of the Credentials Committee
 - (b) Report of the Credentials Committee
7. The objectives and goals of International Women's Year: Present policies and programmes
8. The involvement of women in strengthening international peace and eliminating racism, apartheid, racial discrimination, colonialism, alien domination and acquisition of territories by force
9. Current trends and changes in the status and roles of women and men, and major obstacles to be overcome in the achievement of equal rights, opportunities and responsibilities
10. The integration of women in the development process as equal partners with men

11. World Plan of Action
12. Adoption of the report of the Conference

F. Establishment of committees and organization of work

55. In accordance with rule 4 of the rules of procedure, the Conference at its 1st plenary meeting appointed a Credentials Committee composed, in accordance with rule 4, of the following nine States:

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| Belgium | United Republic of Tanzania |
| China | Union of Soviet Socialist Republics |
| Costa Rica | United States of America |
| Philippines | Venezuela |
| Senegal | |

56. In accordance with rule 42 of the rules of procedure, the Conference established two committees, designated the First and Second Committees, to study the substantive items of the agenda.

57. The Conference decided that the organizational items (items 1 to 6) and item 12 should be discussed directly in plenary without reference to a committee, and that items 7 and 8 should be considered jointly in plenary as part of the general debate, on the understanding that specific proposals submitted under item 8 would be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration.

58. The Conference allocated item 11 to the First Committee. The work of the First Committee is recorded in part two, chapter VII, of the present report.

59. The Conference allocated items 9 and 10 to the Second Committee. An account of the work of the Second Committee is given in part two, chapter VII, of the present report.

G. Election of officers other than the President

60. In accordance with rule 6 of the rules of procedure, the Conference elected the following 46 Vice-Presidents (11 from Africa, 10 from Asia, 6 from Eastern Europe, 9 from Latin America and 10 from Western Europe and other States):

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| Argentina | India |
| Bulgaria | Indonesia |
| Canada | Ivory Coast |
| China | Italy |
| Colombia | Japan |
| Cuba | Kenya |
| Dominican Republic | Mauritius |
| Ecuador | New Zealand |
| France | Niger |
| Gabon | Nigeria |
| German Democratic Republic | Norway |
| Germany, Federal Republic of | Pakistan |
| Greece | Panama |
| Grenada | Philippines |

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|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Peru | Union of Soviet Socialist |
| Poland | Republics |
| Republic of South Viet-Nam | United Kingdom of Great |
| Somalia | Britain and Northern |
| Sri Lanka | Ireland |
| Sudan | United States of America |
| Sweden | Venezuela |
| Syrian Arab Republic | Yugoslavia |
| Thailand | Zaire |
| Tunisia | Zambia |
| Ukrainian Soviet Socialist | |
| Republic | |

61. The Conference also elected Maria Groza (Romania) Rapporteur-General by acclamation.

62. The Conference elected the following Chairmen of the main committees set up under rule 42:

First Committee: Jeanne Martin Cissé (Guinea)

Second Committee: Shapour Rassekh (Iran)

Chapter VI

SUMMARY OF THE GENERAL DEBATE

63. In the course of the general debate, which was conducted in 20 plenary meetings from 19 to 30 June 1975, the Conference was addressed by the representatives of 125 Member States, and by representatives of United Nations bodies, national liberation movements, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations. All speakers expressed their gratitude and appreciation to the President and people of Mexico and to the President and Secretary-General of the Conference.

64. Item 7 of the agenda ("The objectives and goals of International Women's Year: present policies and programmes") and item 8 ("The involvement of women in strengthening international peace and eliminating racism, apartheid, racial discrimination, colonialism, alien domination and acquisition of territories by force") were considered in plenary, within the context of the general debate.

65. Many speakers associated themselves with the theme of the Year, "Equality, development and peace", stating that it focused on three basic international concerns and required simultaneous action. Many said that the three elements were interrelated and that questions relating to the achievement of equal opportunities for women and to their integration in the total development effort as equal partners with men could not be discussed realistically in isolation from other basic social and economic questions such as under-development, exploitation, oppression, racial discrimination, colonialism, neo-colonialism, fascism and war. A number of speakers stressed that the emancipation of women was an inseparable part of the struggle of the whole nation and people. The primary task at the present time in the struggle for women's emancipation was to fight imperialism and colonialism; and to win and safeguard national independence, national economic rights and interests, social progress and women's rights. The Conference was regarded in one sense as the culmination of a trio of conferences. The first two were the World Population Conference and the World Food Conference, which had, in their recommendations, taken account of the interrelationship between the status of women and population questions and between the status of women and food production. In another sense, however, the Conference was regarded as the beginning of a new era of greater participation of women and girls in all aspects of social progress, development and the search for peace. In that connexion, there was support for the proposed Decade of Women and Development to begin in 1975 and for the integration of women in the strategy for the new economic order.

66. Many speakers stressed the fact that basic changes in the economic and social structure of many countries would be necessary in order to create suitable conditions for obtaining the equality of women. Many also said that the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations relating to the promotion of equality and peace for all could never be realized unless women, who comprised one half of the world's population, were regarded first as human beings with full civil, political, economic and social rights. Many speakers expressed their appreciation of the pioneering efforts of the Commission on the Status of Women,

since its establishment in 1946. The awareness of the unequal situation of women throughout the world, revealed by the Commission's many reports and studies, and the guidelines it had set for national, regional and international action, were found to be particularly valuable. It was also stressed that the needs of all women whether young or old, rural or urban, privileged or disadvantaged, in developed or developing countries should be taken into account. Many of the participants stressed that the full participation of women had become a necessary factor in development and that it was a part of the general struggle of humanity for social progress, peace and international co-operation. The advancement of women must be one of the major concerns of Governments, of the international community and of civic organizations. A number of speakers considered that, to be of lasting value, the discussions and recommendations of the Conference would have to be implemented at the national, regional and international levels. Stress was laid on the need for increased international co-operation and technical assistance, particularly from the various bodies within the United Nations system. However, it was also pointed out that Governments, non-governmental organizations and individual women and men also had a tremendous responsibility to ensure the implementation of the World Plan of Action and other recommendations of the Conference at the national level. A suggestion was also made for the establishment of a permanent body which would have as its task to analyse and evaluate problems relating to the status of women in member countries and which would serve as a forum for the presentation of the views of women on world and regional problems. It would provide a flexible mechanism, working on the basis of regional organizations co-ordinated at the international level, and it would hold periodic meetings at both the regional and the international level.

67. Some countries thought that a voluntary fund could be established to assist in carrying out the Plan. It could be funded by Governments and private institutions. Some speakers also suggested that foreign aid to strengthen national or regional programmes for women could be accorded priority. A few countries offered special contributions for women's programmes to be carried out by the United Nations.

A. Equality

68. Several speakers thought that despite the fact that many countries had long supported the concepts of fundamental human rights and freedoms, both by subscribing to the Charter of the United Nations in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and by enacting national legislation, there was frequently a divergence between human rights and women's rights because of the generally inferior status that women held in relation to men. Some speakers felt that the principle of equality between the sexes was interrelated with the principle of equality between countries and ethnic groups. In that regard, many speakers spoke of the benefit to be gained by women and other marginal groups from the new world economic order and other international development strategies. Many representatives believed that a revolutionary change in the structure of society was needed to bring about the social and political liberation of women and to ensure their equal economic, legal and civic rights.

69. Several speakers stated that equality of men and women had been achieved in their countries in the political, social, economic and cultural spheres of life. The revolution and socialism had made a profound change in the status of the masses of women and had raised them to the role of active builders of a new life. The number of women elected to the supreme bodies of government was growing from year to year.

70. A number of speakers discussed the historical and cultural factors that had contributed to fostering and maintaining the notion of the inferior role of women in the vast majority of nations throughout the world. Various types of legislation were mentioned that had been enacted in the past to guarantee women's rights. New laws recently adopted in direct response to work of the United Nations system and particularly to the recommendations of the Commission on the Status of Women as well as to the international women's movement were also described. Some of those legal provisions included the right of women to initiate divorce, to terminate pregnancy under certain situations, to own and dispose of property during, and at the dissolution of marriage, to have custody of her children and to have citizenship. It was also suggested that there should be more effective legislation to protect women against all forms of physical violence. Other provisions were geared specifically to improve the situation of working women through such measures as pension benefits and maternity leave and to ensuring that women should receive equal pay with men for work of equal value.

71. It was pointed out by some speakers that even if legislative measures were a prerequisite of real equality, they were not, by themselves, sufficient to guarantee women genuine and lasting equality. A variety of social and economic measures and changes had to be taken. For example, women's numerical participation in the labour force could be a misleading indicator of equality as women were often employed in the lowest-paid jobs. Moreover, as in most cases women had to interrupt their working career to rear children, they were frequently passed over for promotion and given the least rewarding jobs. Governments could help to redress such unjust situations by extending facilities for maternal and child care, family planning and nutrition and, particularly, by establishing day-care centres. A few speakers thought that women could gain equality in the foreseeable future only if they were accepted as a specific target group for policy and programme development. The burdens borne by women in the family could be considerably lightened if society as a whole could take measures to provide child care and domestic facilities and if men took a more equitable share of domestic responsibilities. A number of participants also noted that, in developing and developed societies alike, responsibility for child-rearing must be much more equitably shared with men if women were to have the time necessary for wider social and political, as well as economic, involvement in society. Co-partnership between men and women was necessary in all family affairs. Day-care centres and other community facilities that helped release women from an inequitable share of household responsibilities should be given special consideration.

72. For some speakers, the level of women's emancipation and equality with men in any society represented an important indicator of the extent of development and political democracy of that society. Statistics on the proportion of women in

educational and training institutions, in politics and at various occupational levels were given in support of that argument. In the majority of countries there was a notable absence of women in high-level decision-making posts. The hope was therefore expressed that the efforts made to place women in senior positions in the United Nations system would be expanded, particularly in areas such as in UNDP field posts. That could prove a useful example to Governments, universities and other institutions.

73. Some speakers stressed the importance of changing stereotyped attitudes of men and women towards the role of women in society. To that end it was essential that women should take part in economic and social life and that they should be assured of the recognition, by society, of that participation. They should also work through existing institutions such as schools, beginning with children at the earliest age and through the mass communications media to eliminate discrimination against women. On the other hand, several speakers also spoke of the value of establishing special national, regional and interregional mechanisms for initiating action and monitoring the progress made in improving the position of women in society and their participation in national policy formulation and decision-making. In this connexion, several speakers mentioned the work of national advisory and fact-finding commissions or committees on the status of women. The work of the Inter-American Commission of Women, founded in 1928, was also mentioned. In the view of those speakers, such mechanisms should be in no way isolated from total national planning and policies. Such bodies could keep the issue of equality between the sexes constantly before the public and urge Governments to ratify international instruments relating to women, including those adopted by the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. A few speakers expressed the hope that a convention on the elimination of discrimination against women would be speedily adopted by the General Assembly so as to give legal validity to the principles expressed in the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, adopted by the General Assembly in 1967 (resolution 2263 (XXII)).

74. One delegation thought the time had come for the General Assembly to consider the possibility of drawing up a Charter of the Rights of Women.

3. Development issues

75. There was widespread agreement among the participants in the Conference that national and international development was not possible without the full and effective participation of women, who constituted an important element in all societies. Many participants expressed the view that while such participation was a major goal to which all could subscribe, it could be accomplished only if different national conditions and aspirations were taken into account. There were, therefore, many possible roads leading to that common goal.

76. A great number of participants expressed the belief that the forging of a new international economic order and the abolition of the conditions that relegated women to inferior economic, political and social roles were

prerequisites of the achievement of equality. They said that the new economic order ensured respect for the right of all peoples to independent economic and social development, the right to exercise sovereignty over their own resources and the right to have access to the results of technology and science. Some observed that, while the achievement of equality by women was closely related to an improvement in conditions of life and the establishment of a more equitable international economic order, women could not wait for such developments to take place before insisting on, and working for, an equal role with men in all aspects of life. Some participants also pointed to evidence that women had not always benefited from changes introduced in the name of development, and said that the harmful effects of economic growth on the lives of women had indeed been recognized. Many participants agreed that both those lines of action must be pursued simultaneously and harmoniously if the full and effective participation of women in development was to be achieved. Many also held that the developed countries, in particular, bore a heavy responsibility for creating the conditions in which equality could be attained and that they must, therefore, make every effort to attain the goals of the Second United Nations Development Decade and that they should comply with the mandates of the United Nations concerning the establishment of a new international economic order.

77. Several participants stated that, in countries with planned economies, the participation of women in development was not a problem, since those countries had undertaken intensive industrialization, in which such participation was inherent. Some speakers stressed that fundamental, social and economic transformation was important for the radical improvement of the status of women in society and for their full integration into the development process. Socialism guaranteed the necessary conditions for the co-ordination of the functions of the woman as a human being engaged in work, as a citizen and as a mother, thus creating in principle an equal role for men and women in the whole development and decision-making process.

78. The relationship of employment opportunity to development and the inequitably high rates of unemployment and underemployment among women received considerable attention during the Conference discussions. In many parts of the world women had few opportunities for useful employment outside the home, where traditional roles almost always confined them to homemaking and child-rearing. Even where broader employment opportunities existed, these were too often only in traditional fields that permitted limited exercise of imagination and innate abilities. This was often due to the fact that women lacked the opportunities for basic education and training that would enable them to function effectively. Special attention must therefore be given to helping women take advantage of a wider range of employment opportunities through the eradication of illiteracy, improved schooling and vocational training.

79. A number of participants suggested that several areas of concern and lines of action should be given special recognition. Many pointed out that rural women constituted a major portion of the world's human resources, yet they were traditionally relegated to menial and unproductive roles compared with men. That practice not only deprived national and international development efforts of

significant resources but prevented women in many parts of the world from achieving self-fulfilment. Determined efforts must therefore be made to open up to rural women opportunities that would allow them to broaden their involvement in development on an equal basis with men. These might be found in agricultural training, co-operative formation and management, rural industry and other fields in which rural developments might take place.

80. The situation and role of women in urban slums and shanty towns were also referred to by a number of participants as matters warranting careful examination and determined action. Improved social services and social security measures were necessary to help place those women in a stronger position to participate in development, but care must be exercised to ensure that such actions should strengthen women's independent roles rather than increase their dependency on men.

81. Population policy was mentioned several times during the Conference as a field in which women had particular concerns and competence and in which their actions bore a direct relationship to their participation in development. Women and the couple must participate freely in the decisions that were made concerning the size of the family and the spacing of children if they were to be able to decide on the extent of their own participation in development activities.

82. Some representatives claimed that the maintenance of the gap between the developed and the under-developed countries was one of the principal reasons for the lack of progress. In their opinion the basic requirement for the participation of women in development was the eradication of the economic and social problems of under-development that existed in many countries as a result of the old imperialist and colonialist policies.

83. However, a large number of non-aligned and developing countries emphasized that the international relations existing in the current economic and political situation were the main reason for the widening of the gap between developed and developing countries and that the solution could be sought only through establishment of the new international economic order.

84. One of the principal themes emerging from the Conference discussions was that legislative action, while having great importance, did not itself necessarily guarantee women a full and effective role in development. Greater attention should be paid to the need to ensure that legislation should be effective. A wide variety of opportunities for actual participation should be created, both to ensure the implementation of legislation and to break the vicious circle of custom and practice that locked women into secondary and inferior roles. In particular, women must be included at all levels of decision-making, including planning, implementation and evaluation of development activities. National bodies should be established to monitor the advancement of women.

85. Many speakers noted that the need to create suitable conditions for the full and effective participation of women in development did not exist only in the developing countries, but existed equally strongly, if often in different forms, in developed countries as well. Women in many parts of the world were limited to

secondary and inferior roles in the context of their own societies, and so far only a few societies were completely free from that burden of oppression.

86. A number of speakers observed that there was, as yet, little information available on the situation, needs and aspirations of women and on their actual and potential roles in national and international society. Such information was indispensable to the creation of viable policies and programmes concerning the role of women in development. Research on such matters was urgently needed, in particular research into the attitudes of both men and women towards women's role in society. Participants expressed widespread interest in the regional and training activities of the United Nations, including the African Training and Research Centre for Women, and some suggested the need for the establishment of an international research and training centre. Such a centre would contribute to a broader understanding of the factors that promoted and inhibited the participation of women in development as well as to the identification of new and promising areas for international and national action in that regard. Existing units of the United Nations and its specialized agencies should focus special attention on developing new ways of measuring changes in the situation of women both within and between countries.

87. It was stated that if women were to be encouraged, or even allowed, to contribute to the industrial growth that was so vital a part of every nation's development, a determined, concerted and co-ordinated effort was required by all those partners in the process: the developing countries, the industrialized countries, and the international community. What was needed was not only a fundamental change of attitude, but one that was translated without delay into a modification of existing structures and the establishment of new ones - almost, in fact, another industrial revolution.

C. Peace

88. A large number of speakers noted that equality, development and peace were interdependent, that one could not exist without the others, and that peace was a prerequisite of social progress in general, and of the improvement of the status of women in particular. There was general agreement among participants in the Conference that true international co-operation among countries and peoples must, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, be based on fully equal rights, respect for national independence and sovereignty, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, the avoidance of the use or threat of force as well as on the full exercise of the right of self-determination and the recognition of human rights and the dignity of the human person. There was also widespread recognition of the importance of establishing a new world economic order and of increasing the involvement of women in efforts to strengthen international peace and eliminate colonialism and neo-colonialism, foreign occupation, apartheid, fascism, racism and racial discrimination in all its forms and the acquisition of territories by force. Several speakers stressed the important contribution of millions of women in the defeat of fascism in the Second World War; that contribution showed the potential of women in the cause of peace.

89. Many speakers emphasized that although, in recent years, the world had witnessed a reduction in international tension, a number of military conflicts were still taking place in parts of Africa, Asia and the Middle East and millions of people - men, women and children - had perished or had suffered grievously or were still continuing to suffer. A number of participants stressed the importance, both for world peace and for the progress of women, of the implementation of the United Nations resolutions dealing with international peace and security, particularly the Security Council resolutions on the situation in the Middle East, the withdrawal of the Israeli armies from the territories occupied in the war of 1967, respect for the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, and also the return, according to United Nations resolutions, of Palestinians and Cypriot refugees to their homes.

90. Many speakers made references to the constant violations of human rights that had taken place in Chile, and requested the immediate cessation of torture, oppression, maltreatment and repression to which the people of Chile, especially the women, were victim.

91. A number of delegations spoke with satisfaction of the return of peace to Viet-Nam and expressed appreciation of the role played by women in the struggle for national independence. They also manifested their desire to help the Viet-Namese people to heal the wounds of war and reconstruct the country. They stated that the cessation of hostilities in South-East Asia had contributed significantly to the improvement of the international political climate. The spread of détente was viewed by some delegations as a contribution to the establishment of conditions under which all countries, regardless of their social and economic structure or level of development, would be able to derive greater benefit from the gains resulting from mutually advantageous co-operation. It was urged that the process should be made irreversible. That in turn would contribute to the resolution of problems of economic and social development, including those related to the improvement of the status of women.

92. The consequences of colonialism and economic backwardness in the form of illiteracy, poverty, disease, hunger and unemployment, which brought hardships to millions of women and children in the world, were deplored by many speakers. It was argued that the solution of those problems had become an urgent and acute need of the contemporary world. In that connexion, participants in the Conference noted with satisfaction that three colonial countries, Sao Tome and Principe, Cape Verde Islands and Angola, the last of which was represented at the Conference, would become independent during the Year. A fourth, Mozambique, had become independent during the Conference, on 25 June 1975, and a fifth, Surinam, would become independent on 20 November 1975. The participation of women in those struggles was commended. Some speakers noted, however, that the contribution of women in crisis situations had often gone unrewarded once the crisis was over, and that what had seemed like a permanent improvement in the status of women, especially as regards their role in decision-making, had not survived the return to the previous situation.

93. The increasing role of women in efforts directed to the development of friendly relations among nations, the cessation of the arms race, and the

achievement of general disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament, was noted with satisfaction by a large number of speakers. Some speakers stressed that disarmament should be general and complete under effective international control and that the proposed disarmament conference should be held. Many speakers referred in their statements to the role played by the Soviet Union in favour of disarmament and world peace. The possession of huge arsenals of weapons that could be used to the detriment of mankind was regarded as a danger to world peace and progress. Many speakers condemned the continued manufacture and stockpiling of weapons, especially since the resources used for military purposes could be used for technical and economic assistance and for development programmes to raise the level of living of the least favoured groups and countries. It was clearly the responsibility of women to use their influence to keep the attention of Governments turned towards general disarmament. Some said that until that aim was achieved, women and peoples throughout the world must do their utmost to heighten vigilance against all imperialist manoeuvres, to achieve national independence, and to maintain international peace. Women should also be given the opportunity to serve in government agencies and on delegations to international and regional meetings dealing with international and regional problems, national independence, sovereignty over natural resources, peace, disarmament and security. On their part, Governments should make every effort to increase the number of women in national delegations. Women's groups and organizations were also urged to give their active support to the programmes for the maintenance of peace as well as to the implementation of various resolutions of the General Assembly on the non-proliferation of armaments and the reduction of military budgets. The Conference was reminded that at its sixth special session, the United Nations General Assembly had approved a Declaration and Programme of Action for the Establishment of a New International Economic Order (General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI)), and that at its twenty-ninth session, the General Assembly had decisively adopted the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States (resolution 3281 (XXIX)). It was stressed that awareness of those decisions and of their relationship to matters of concern to women would help to promote social justice and progress in the world and foster international peace and security.

94. A number of speakers felt that as a result of the new international order and the internal structural changes as well as of their traditional role and functions, particularly those related to parenthood, the care of children and the family, women had developed qualities that made them particularly well suited to participate in efforts to achieve a better life for the weak and the helpless, and to strengthen peace, ensure the exercise of the right to self-determination, and eliminate racism, apartheid, colonialism, neo-colonialism, racial discrimination, alien domination and the acquisition of territories by force. A few speakers, however, felt that women had no special responsibility with regard to international peace simply because they were women, but felt that they should bear equal responsibility with men in national and international decision-making concerned with promoting peace, international security and co-operation. Some said that provision should be made for communication among women so that they could consider methods of influencing Governments to eliminate tension and conflict. Finally, it was stressed that by taking part in the struggle for peace or national independence and liberation, women could broaden their horizons, raise their political consciousness, become aware of their strength, raise their position and win the respect of society.

Chapter VII

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT WORLD PLAN OF ACTION AND OF THE DRAFT DECLARATION

A. Report of the First Committee

1. Organization of work

95. The Conference at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 June 1975, allocated to the First Committee agenda item 11 (World Plan of Action) on the understanding that, should a text of a draft declaration be submitted, it would be considered by the First Committee in connexion with that item.

96. The First Committee met under the chairmanship of Jeanne Martin Cissé (Guinea). It held 12 meetings between 20 June and 2 July 1975. At its 1st and 3rd meetings it elected by acclamation: Nilima Ibrahim (Bangladesh) and Jaroslav Havelka (Czechoslovakia), and Gladys Freyre de Addiego (Uruguay) Vice-Chairmen; and John Bruce Campbell (Australia) Rapporteur.

97. The Committee considered item 11 at its 2nd to 12th meetings. For the consideration of the item it had before it a draft World Plan of Action prepared by the Secretariat (E/CONF.66/5 and Corr.1). It also had before it as a background document the report of the Consultative Committee for the World Conference of the International Women's Year (E/CONF.66/BP/18) and the following background documents: E/CONF.66/BP/1 and Add.1, E/CONF.66/BP/2, E/CONF.66/BP/3, E/CONF.66/BP/4, E/CONF.66/BP/16 and E/CONF.66/BP/17. It had before it also a statement submitted by the International Council on Social Welfare, a non-governmental organization in category I consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CONF.66/NGO/1).

2. Brief summary of general debate

98. In accordance with the decision taken at its 1st meeting, the Committee held a brief general debate on item 11 and set a five-minute time-limit for statements. The general debate was held at its 2nd to 4th meetings.

99. The Chairman of the Consultative Committee for the World Conference of the International Women's Year described the work of the Consultative Committee, established under General Assembly resolution 3277 (XXIX), which had considered the draft Plan. She stressed the fact that the draft Plan was essentially designed to translate into practical reality principles already contained in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and other instruments. The time had come, she said, for effective action to eradicate all forms of discrimination against women. The Plan should provoke, stimulate and provide guidance for such action.

100. In introducing the revised draft Plan of Action (E/CONF.66/5 and Corr.1), the Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference noted that one of the basic problems

before the Consultative Committee had been to draw up a plan of universal application for countries at very different levels of development. The draft contained detailed, though not exhaustive, guidelines for action; it would be for each Government to draw up its own strategy and priorities on the basis of the recommendations contained in the Plan. She drew particular attention to the minimum targets which, it was suggested, should be achieved by 1980 (E/CONF.66/5, para. 35). Pointing out that the draft Plan called for the proclamation of a Decade for Women and Development (1975-1985), she stressed the need for effective national, regional and international action. All organizations in the United Nations system had a role to play in the effective implementation of the Plan and in the periodic review and appraisal provided for in chapter VI of the Plan.

101. An overwhelming majority of the representatives supported the Plan of Action and agreed that it was the most important document before the Conference and congratulated the Secretariat of the United Nations and the Consultative Committee for preparing a comprehensive text, which formed a good basis for discussion. The idea of a Decade for Women and Development (1975-1985) contained in the Plan received the support of many representatives. Great stress was placed on the effective implementation of the Plan, nationally, regionally and internationally, as well as on adequate provision for review and appraisal of the progress made in achieving the objectives.

102. Many representatives indicated that the Plan reflected the main guidelines of the implementation of the aims and purposes of the International Women's Year - equality, development and peace. The document emphasized in particular the necessity of the struggle against Colonialism, neo-colonialism and apartheid and for international independence of peoples, international peace and social progress.

103. Two representatives however held that the document was unsatisfactory and did not reveal the root cause of discrimination against women nor did it point out the correct way for their emancipation. They said that the main way for women's emancipation was to struggle against imperialism, colonialism, racism, apartheid, neo-colonialism and super-Power hegemonism. Without this struggle, equality, development and peace could not be realized.

104. Representatives stressed the need for the allocation of sufficient funds to implement the objectives of the Plan. It was suggested that the voluntary fund, established by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1850 (LVI), should be extended on a provisional basis.

105. A number of representatives recognized that, although legal equality among men and women had been almost universally achieved, implementation of the legal provisions was hindered by unfavourable socio-economic conditions and by deeply rooted discriminatory attitudes.

106. In view of the interdependence between the status of women and current global problems, many representatives saw the need to consider the situation of women in the context of other United Nations proclamations, such as the new international economic order, of which many representatives considered the Charter of Economic

Rights and Duties of States a basic element, and of policies for the eradication of colonialism, neo-colonialism, racial discrimination, racism, apartheid and foreign domination. In that context a number of representatives stated that the liberation of a large number of peoples from foreign domination, which allowed them to become full members of the international community, had been the most relevant achievement of the last decade.

107. Several representatives shared their achievements in the field of the realization of women's rights and stated that the Plan should elaborate in greater detail the relationship of world peace to equality of the sexes and development. It was suggested that a historical perspective of the contribution of women to peace and co-operation among States should be included in the Plan. It was also suggested that the Plan should call for complete nuclear and general disarmament. A few representatives, referring to women who were held prisoners and were being tortured, appealed to the Committee to take constructive action to alleviate the suffering of these women.

108. Many representatives in the Committee favoured the adoption by the Conference of a declaration of principles embodying some of those ideas. It was the view of most representatives that the First Committee would be the appropriate body for consideration of such a declaration so as to ensure that the declaration should complement the Plan and that repetition and duplication between the two instruments should be avoided.

109. Many representatives were of the opinion that the Plan of Action should give high priority to the needs of the largest number of women in the developing countries, those in the rural areas and the urban poor. It was felt that some parts of the Plan, especially the section on housing, did not adequately reflect their needs. It was considered extremely important that women should be represented and their voices heard at the Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements in 1976.

110. Many representatives recommended appropriate action to meet the needs of rural women, especially those of women working in subsistence agriculture. Others emphasized the very real needs of urban women and their problems of alienation.

111. Many representatives pointed out that although economic development was an important element in the improvement of the status of women and their participation in society, higher economic and social growth was not necessarily directly connected with such improvement.

112. Some representatives observed that population conditions were causally related to the status and well-being of women, although the nature of the causality varied among different cultures and reflected a diversity of problems, both at the regional and the national levels. The opinion was expressed that women were frequently used as instruments of policy. Population and social policy relevant to childbearing were, in such cases, applied in a way that eliminated women's freedom of choice as regards the bearing of children. According to that view, where childbearing was concerned, the needs and desires of women were often subordinated to those of the State and society. It was held

that the Plan of Action should include reference to those points, and that it should place greater stress upon the development of the woman and the fulfilment of her own wishes and goals.

113. It was also stressed in this respect by a number of delegations that the free and responsible decision concerning the number and spacing of children belonged to individuals and couples and that population policy was for each sovereign State to determine.

114. It was emphasized that conditions and patterns of internal and international migration often imposed personal, social and economic hardships upon women and were interrelated with the conditions and characteristics of development. It was also pointed out by some representatives that the subject of international migration should be considered positively as an element of population policy, special attention being given to the situation of women and their families. In view of the scope and magnitude of those problems, the proposals for action should include provision for dealing with them.

115. A number of representatives recommended the redistribution of functions and responsibilities between men and women in order to eliminate the double burden carried by many women. Some suggested that household tasks should be developed as a social industry and that the provision of child-care services should be a responsibility of the State. It was pointed out that the vast majority of women were not able to demand better working conditions since they did not form part of the trade-unions and were not organized collectively in that sense.

116. Some representatives explained in detail the manner in which their Governments assisted families to raise their children and carry out their domestic responsibilities.

117. The mass communication media were exhorted to help in changing attitudes towards the achievement of the goals of the Plan. It was suggested that a non-profit international communications network should be created to feed development-oriented information to the media in each country and to inform the population about new roles for women and about their struggle for equality with men.

118. Many representatives considered that the Plan should give greater emphasis to education at all levels, to equip women for greater participation in society, especially in policy-making.

119. Many representatives noted that though technological development contributed to the improvement of social welfare, its benefits were not equitably shared and women workers especially were often placed in a disadvantaged position.

120. Some representatives urged the ratification without delay of international instruments to eliminate discrimination against women. Others stressed the need to re-evaluate outdated international conventions or declarations that might have an adverse effect on women's employment opportunities. Several representatives urged that the preparation of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women be accelerated.

121. One delegation considered that in order to consecrate universally the rights, the status and the role of women in the contemporary world as active participants in the national, international, political, economic, social and cultural life and as first educators of the young, it would be appropriate for the United Nations to consider the elaboration of a charter to that effect.

122. Several representatives announced the establishment in their countries of regional or national research centres to study the problems of women. Others mentioned the creation of national machinery, such as national commissions and women's bureaux, to promote the advancement of women. The Committee was informed that the Association of South-East Asian Nations ^{1/} had proposed the creation of a permanent committee on women's affairs to provide machinery for regional activities to improve the situation of women and to implement the World Plan of Action. The Committee was also informed that a regional centre devoted to research, training, technical co-operation and public information would be established in Latin America with the support of the Interamerican Commission of Women and that it was expected that the centre develop full co-operation with other regional centres that might be established and with all United Nations agencies.

123. The Committee also heard statements by the observers of national liberation movements, who joined other delegations in stressing that in countries that were still suffering from colonial rule or foreign domination women were subject to double discrimination - on grounds of sex as well as of race. The struggle for the liberation of countries and for the elimination of discrimination on the basis of sex could not be separated and the struggle should be waged in such a way that neither would be achieved at the expense of the other. The liberation of women required the active participation of both men and women, and the liberation of countries required the active participation of women as well as men.

124. Some delegations were in favour of a co-ordinated system for the review and appraisal of progress made and problems encountered in the field of the status of women, expressing the hope that this could be integrated for instance with the reporting related to the implementation of the International Development Strategy.

125. A number of observers from non-governmental organizations welcomed the draft Plan of Action, which they considered an excellent basis for discussion. They expressed their support for the Plan and stressed the importance of its implementation.

126. One observer referred to the abuses suffered by consumers throughout the world, particularly in the developing countries and in remote areas, and suggested that women should take a leading part in proposing to the General Assembly that a study be made of existing practices and standards with a view to providing measures for the protection of the rights of consumers, formulating a model code for consumer protection and establishing a consumer protection agency within the United Nations system.

^{1/} Comprising Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

3. Action taken by the Committee

127. At its 5th meeting, the Committee, on the recommendation of its Bureau, decided, without a vote, to establish an informal Working Group in order to consider paragraph by paragraph the draft World Plan of Action (E/CONF.66/5 and Corr.1) in the light of the numerous amendments submitted to the Secretariat by a majority of the participants in the Conference, and to consider the draft Plan chapter by chapter at its formal meetings.

128. The informal Working Group divided itself into two subgroups, A and B, in order to study, respectively, the introduction and chapter I of the draft World Plan of Action.

129. Owing to the lack of time, the Committee was unable to consider chapter by chapter the draft Plan of Action prepared by the Secretariat.

130. At the 6th meeting, on a proposal by the representative of Algeria, the Committee decided, without a vote, to accept the principle of adopting the introduction and chapter I of the draft World Plan of Action (E/CONF.66/5 and Corr.1), as amended by the Committee's informal working groups.

131. At the 7th meeting, the representative of Senegal, speaking on behalf of the African Group, proposed that the Committee decide to adopt, without a vote, the introduction and chapter I of the draft World Plan of Action, as amended by the informal working groups of the Committee, and chapters II to VI, as prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of the recommendations of the Consultative Committee (E/CONF.66/5, chaps. II to VI), with the regional plans of action already prepared and those which might be prepared becoming part of the World Plan of Action to be adopted by the Conference.

132. At its 8th meeting, the Committee decided, without a vote, to adopt the World Plan of Action, consisting of the elements enumerated in the proposal of the representative of Senegal at the preceding meeting. The Committee agreed also that the statements and suggestions made by representatives with regard to the Plan should be attached to the text of the Plan. (See paras. 154 and 156.)

4. Statements by representatives on the World Plan of Action

133. While welcoming the adoption of the draft Plan of Action, many representatives expressed regret at the inability of the Committee to consider the many amendments submitted. Several representatives stated that this should not become a precedent for other conferences in the future. It was suggested that for future similar conferences, a deadline of a few days previous to the opening should be set for the submission of proposals and amendments, so that amendments, resolutions and declarations might receive proper consideration.

134. Many representatives considered that the implementation of the Plan and the provisions in chapter VI on review and appraisal were of the utmost importance

and needed strengthening. Other representatives also stressed the urgency for immediate action to implement the Plan.

135. A number of representatives emphasized that as indicated in the Plan, each country should implement the Plan, taking into account its own national plans, priorities, social and cultural conditions and national traditions.

136. Other statements and specific suggestions made by representatives are attached to the World Plan of Action. /See part one, chap. II, sect. C./

5. Consideration of draft resolutions 2/

137. At the 9th meeting, the Committee received a draft resolution (E/CONF.66/C.1/L.23) entitled "Research and training for the advancement of women in Africa". Following an oral amendment calling for the addition of a new operative paragraph 5, the Committee adopted, as draft resolution I, the draft resolution (E/CONF.66/C.1/L.23), as orally amended, without a vote. (For action taken in plenary, see para. 159 below; for the final text, see part one, chap. III, resolution 1.)

138. At the 9th meeting, the Committee received a draft resolution entitled "International co-operation under projects designed to achieve the objectives of the World Plan of Action" (E/CONF.66/C.1/L.26). The Committee adopted the draft resolution as draft resolution II, without a vote. (For action taken in plenary, see para. 150 below; for the final text, see part one, chap. III, resolution 2.)

139. At the 10th meeting, the Committee received a draft resolution (E/CONF.66/C.1/L.31) entitled "The status of women in South Africa, Namibia and Southern Rhodesia".

140. The co-sponsors of the draft resolution (E/CONF.66/C.1/L.31) announced their acceptance of the amendments (E/CONF.66/C.1/L.34) proposed to the draft resolution. The Committee considered also oral amendments, parts of which were incorporated in the draft resolution (E/CONF.66/C.1/L.31), as amended by the changes proposed in document E/CONF.66/C.1/L.34.

141. At the same meeting, the Committee voted as follows on the draft resolution (E/CONF.66/C.1/L.31), as amended:

(a) It adopted the fifth preambular paragraph by 57 votes to 14, with 4 abstentions;

(b) It adopted the sixth preambular paragraph by 57 votes to 5, with 9 abstentions;

(c) In a roll-call vote it adopted operative paragraph 4 by 53 votes to 12, with 13 abstentions. 3/ The voting was as follows:

2/ A list of the draft resolutions submitted to the First Committee, showing the names of the sponsors, is given in annex I.

3/ The delegation of Canada stated that it had abstained but that its vote had not been recorded.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Chile, China, Congo, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam, Democratic Yemen, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Peru, Poland, Qatar, Republic of South Viet-Nam, Romania, Senegal, Sudan, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Republic of Tanzania, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany (Federal Republic of), Iceland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, ^{4/} Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Burma, Central African Republic, Costa Rica, Honduras, Ivory Coast, Japan, New Zealand, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand.

(d) The draft resolution (E/CONF.66/C.1/L.31), as a whole, as amended was adopted by 55 votes to none, with 17 abstentions, as draft resolution III. (For action taken in plenary, see para. 161 below; for the final text, see part one, chap. III, resolution 3.)

142. At the 10th meeting, the Committee received a draft resolution entitled "Role of the United Nations system in implementing the World Plan of Action" (E/CONF.66/C.1/L.33).

143. At the 11th meeting, following a number of oral amendments proposed to the various sections of the draft resolution, the Committee proceeded to vote as follows:

(a) It rejected, by 27 votes to 17, with 18 abstentions, the amendment proposed to the third preambular paragraph;

(b) It adopted, by 54 votes to 9, with 6 abstentions, the third preambular paragraph of the draft resolution (E/CONF.66/C.1/L.33);

(c) It rejected, by 37 votes to 29, with 6 abstentions, the amendment proposed to operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution;

(d) It adopted, by 58 votes to 9, with 7 abstentions, operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution;

(e) It rejected, by 39 votes to 11, with 15 abstentions, the amendments proposed to subparagraphs (a) and (b) of operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution;

(f) It adopted, by 51 votes to 2, with 8 abstentions, the proposal for the addition of a new operative paragraph 4.

^{4/} At the 23rd plenary meeting, the delegation of the Philippines stated that it had voted in favour of and not against para. 4.

144. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted, without a vote, as draft resolution IV, the draft resolution (E/CONF.66/C.1/L.33), as a whole, as amended. (For action taken in plenary, see para. 165 below; for the final text, see part one, chap. III, resolution 4.)

145. At the 10th and 11th meetings, the Committee considered a draft resolution (E/CONF.66/C.1/L.35) entitled "Women and health". At the 11th meeting, the Committee adopted, as draft resolution V, the draft resolution, as orally revised, by 56 votes to none, with 12 abstentions. (For action taken in plenary, see para. 166 below; for the final text, see part one, chap. III, resolution 5.)

146. At the 11th meeting, the following draft resolutions were withdrawn by the sponsors:

- (a) E/CONF.66/C.1/L.24 entitled "Rural areas";
- (b) E/CONF.66/C.1/L.25 entitled "Education";
- (c) E/CONF.66/C.1/L.27 entitled "Maternal and child health programmes";
- (d) E/CONF.66/C.1/L.29 entitled "Communications media";
- (e) E/CONF.66/C.1/L.30 entitled "Development and participation".

147. At the 11th meeting, the Committee decided, without a vote, not to consider the draft resolution contained in document E/CONF.66/C.1/L.28, entitled "Women and human development".

148. At the 10th meeting, the Committee received a draft resolution (E/CONF.66/C.1/L.32) entitled "Participation of women in the seventh special session of the United Nations General Assembly and in other meetings of the different bodies of the United Nations".

149. At the 12th meeting, the Committee adopted, as draft resolution VI, the draft resolution (E/CONF.66/C.1/L.32) as orally amended, by 83 votes to none, with 10 abstentions. (For action taken in plenary, see para. 168 below; for the final text, see part one, chap. III, resolution 6.)

150. At the 12th meeting, the Committee had before it the texts of two draft Declarations (E/CONF.66/C.1/L.22 and E/CONF.66/C.1/L.37/Rev.1). An amendment to the latter (E/CONF.66/C.1/L.39) was also before the Committee. At the same meeting the Committee decided, without a vote, to consider the two drafts concurrently.

151. Following a procedural motion, which was adopted by 68 votes to 5, with 18 abstentions, the Committee decided that priority should be given in the voting process to the draft Declaration contained in document E/CONF.66/C.1/L.37/Rev.1, entitled "Draft Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and their Contribution to Development and Peace, 1975".

152. Accordingly, the Committee voted on the revised text of the draft Declaration (E/CONF.66/C.1/L.37/Rev.1) and the amendment submitted thereto (E/CONF.66/C.1/L.39) as follows:

(a) It adopted, by 39 votes to 9, with 29 abstentions, the amendment (E/CONF.66/C.1/L.39) to the fourth preambular paragraph;

(b) In a roll-call vote, it decided, by 59 votes to 19, with 25 abstentions, to retain the word "zionism" in the eighth and eleventh preambular paragraphs, as well as in operative paragraphs 24 and 26. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Congo, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam, Egypt, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Guinea, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mongolia, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of South Viet-Nam, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, France, Germany (Federal Republic of), Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay.

Abstaining: Argentina, Austria, Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Ghana, Grenada, Guyana, Holy See, Honduras, Japan, Mexico, Nepal, Peru, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Upper Volta, Venezuela;

(c) It adopted, by 68 votes to 14, with 17 abstentions, the eighth and eleventh preambular paragraphs and operative paragraphs 24 and 26;

(d) It adopted, by 83 votes to 6, with 7 abstentions, operative paragraph 18;

(e) It adopted, by 81 votes to 5, with 10 abstentions, operative paragraph 19;

(f) It adopted, by 89 votes to 1, with 14 abstentions, taken by roll-call vote, the revised draft Declaration (E/CONF.66/C.1/L.37/Rev.1), as amended, as a whole. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Barbados, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of South Viet-Nam, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and

Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: Israel.

Abstaining: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany (Federal Republic of), Holy See, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

(For action taken in plenary, see paras. 169 and 170 below; for the final text of the draft Declaration (E/CONF.66/C.1/L.37/Rev.1), see part one, chap. I).

153. At the same meeting, the sponsors of the draft Declaration contained in document E/CONF.66/C.1/L.22 decided not to press that text to the vote.

6. Recommendations of the First Committee

154. The First Committee recommends to the Conference the adoption of the draft World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year, comprising the draft introduction and chapter I (E/CONF.66/C.1/L.36) and chapters II to VI (E/CONF.66/5 and Corr.1), together with the regional plans of action already prepared (E/CONF.66/BP/2 and E/CONF.66/BP/3) and any others that may be prepared, the regional plans being attached to the World Plan; the draft Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and their Contribution to Development and Peace, 1975 (E/CONF.66/C.1/L.37/Rev.1, as amended); and the draft resolutions (I to VI) adopted by the Committee.

B. Action taken in plenary on the report of the First Committee

155. At the 23rd and 25th plenary meetings, the Rapporteur of the First Committee submitted the Committee's report (E/CONF.66/C.1/L.38/Rev.1 and E/CONF.66/L.38/Add.1-3), in which the Committee recommended the adoption by the Conference of a draft World Plan of Action, six draft resolutions, numbered I to V and a draft Declaration.

Draft World Plan of Action

156. At the 23rd plenary meeting, the Conference adopted, without a vote, the draft World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year, consisting of the text of the introduction and chapter I given in document E/CONF.66/C.1/L.36 and the text of chapters II to VI given in document E/CONF.66/5 and Corr.1. In doing so, it also approved the recommendation of the First Committee that the texts of the regional plans already prepared (E/CONF.66/BP/2 and E/CONF.66/BP/3) and those that might be prepared should be attached to the World Plan of Action. The Conference further agreed that the statements made with regard to the World Plan of Action (E/CONF.66/L.38/Add.3) in the First Committee would be attached to the text of the Plan. (For the text of the World Plan of Action and related documents, see part one, chap. II.)

Draft resolutions

157. Before the Conference took action on the draft resolutions recommended for adoption by its Committees, the Secretary-General of the Conference pointed out that wherever a resolution adopted by the Conference contained provisions entrusting functions to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, such provisions would require endorsement by the competent organ of the United Nations before the Secretary-General could undertake the functions.

158. The Conference took action as follows on the six draft resolutions recommended by the First Committee.

159. Draft resolution I ("Research and training for the advancement of women in Africa") was adopted without a vote. (For the text, see part one, chap. III, resolution 1.)

160. Draft resolution II ("International co-operation under projects designed to achieve the objectives of the World Plan of Action") was adopted without a vote. (For the text, see part one, chap. III, resolution 2.)

161. Draft resolution III ("The status of women in South Africa, Namibia and Southern Rhodesia") was adopted without a vote. (For the text, see part one, chap. III, resolution 3.)

162. The representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Norway stated that they had not joined in the consensus or that they would have abstained had a vote been taken on the draft resolution. The representatives of the Philippines and Haiti formulated reservations to the draft resolution.

163. The representative of the United Kingdom, supported by the representative of the United States, requested that votes be taken on the remaining draft resolutions recommended by the Committee for adoption.

164. At the 23rd plenary meeting, the representative of Egypt proposed, by invoking the proviso of rule 31.1 of the rules of procedure, that decisions of the Conference be taken henceforth by a simple majority of the representatives present and voting. After some discussion, the Conference adopted the proposal of Egypt by 76 votes to 13, with 6 abstentions.

165. Draft resolution IV ("Role of the United Nations system in implementing the World Plan of Action") was voted upon as follows. At the request of the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, a separate vote was taken on paragraphs 2 and 3. It was decided, by 82 votes to 9, with 6 abstentions, to retain the paragraphs. The draft resolution, as a whole, was adopted by 90 votes to none, with 11 abstentions. (For the text, see part one, chap. III, resolution 4.)

166. Draft resolution V ("Women and health") was adopted by 97 votes to none, with 2 abstentions. (For the text, see part one, chap. III, resolution 5.)

167. The representatives of Honduras, Colombia, the Holy See and Chile made statements formulating reservations or in explanation of vote.

168. Draft resolution VI ("Participation of women in the seventh special session of the United Nations General Assembly and in other meetings of the various bodies of the United Nations") was adopted at the 25th plenary meeting by 89 votes to none with 13 abstentions. (For the text, see part one, chap. III, resolution 6.)

Draft Declaration

169. At its 25th plenary meeting the Conference considered the draft Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and their Contribution to Peace, 1975 (E/CONF.66/L.37/Rev.1). At the request of Israel, the word "zionism" in the eighth and eleventh paragraphs of the preamble and in paragraphs 24 and 26 of the draft text was voted on separately by roll-call. It was decided, by 61 votes to 23, with 25 abstentions, to retain the word. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Bangladesh, Botswana, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, China, Dahomey, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Republic, Malaysia, Mali, Morocco, Mexico, Mongolia, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Republic of South Viet-Nam, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, France, Germany (Federal Republic of), Guatemala, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay.

Abstaining: Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Finland, Grenada, Holy See, Honduras, Ivory Coast, Japan, Nepal, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Swaziland, Switzerland, Thailand, Upper Volta, Venezuela.

170. The draft Declaration was adopted by 89 votes to 3, with 18 abstentions. (For the text, see part one, chap. 5.)

171. The representative of Denmark stated that her delegation had, by mistake, voted against the Declaration; it had meant to abstain. The representative of Romania stated that he had been unavoidably absent during the vote; had he been present he would have voted in favour.

172. After the adoption of the Declaration, statements in explanations of vote or of reservation were made by the representatives of Denmark, Romania, Finland, Somalia, China, the Federal Republic of Germany, Ireland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Italy, Israel, Belgium, the Philippines, the United States of America, Costa Rica, Canada, Ecuador, Japan, Norway, Sweden, Guatemala, France, the Netherlands, Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Albania, Jamaica, Uganda, Iceland, Fiji, Colombia and Egypt.

Chapter VIII

THE INVOLVEMENT OF WOMEN IN STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND ELIMINATING RACISM, APARTHEID, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, COLONIALISM, ALIEN DOMINATION AND THE ACQUISITION OF TERRITORIES BY FORCE

CURRENT TRENDS AND CHANGES IN THE STATUS AND ROLES OF WOMEN AND MEN, AND MAJOR OBSTACLES TO BE OVERCOME IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF EQUAL RIGHTS, OPPORTUNITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS AS EQUAL PARTNERS WITH MEN

A. Report of the Second Committee

1. Organization of work

173. The Second Committee, which met under the chairmanship of Shapour Rassekh (Iran), held 17 meetings between 20 June and 1 July 1975. At its 1st meeting it elected, by acclamation, Edmonde Dever (Belgium), Annie Jiagge (Ghana) and Anna Pepp (Hungary) Vice-Chairmen; and Phyllis Claire Macpherson-Russell (Jamaica) Rapporteur.

174. In accordance with the decision taken by the Conference at its 1st plenary meeting, the Second Committee undertook consideration of agenda item 9 (Current trends and changes in the status and roles of women and men, and major obstacles to be overcome in the achievement of equal rights, opportunities and responsibilities) and item 10 (The integration of women in the development process as equal partners with men). At its 1st meeting, on 20 June 1975, the Committee decided to consider the two items jointly.

175. For its consideration of item 9, the Committee had before it Conference documents E/CONF.66/3 and Add.1 and 3, a statement submitted by the Associated Country Women of the World, a non-governmental organization in category II consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CONF.66/NGO/2); and a statement submitted jointly by 39 non-governmental organizations in categories I and II and on the Poster (E/CONF.66/NGO/3).

176. For its consideration of item 10, it had before it Conference document E/CONF.66/4 and two statements by non-governmental organizations in Category II consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, one submitted by the International Federation of Women Lawyers (E/CONF.66/NGO/6) and the other by the International Organization of Consumer's Unions (E/CONF.66/NGO/9).

177. In addition, it had before it the following background documents: E/CONF.66/BP/5; E/CONF.66/BP/7; E/CONF.66/BP/8 and Add.1; E/CONF.66/BP/9; E/CONF.66/BP/11; E/CONF.66/BP/12; E/CONF.66/BP/13; E/CONF.66/BP/14; E/CONF.66/BP/15; and E/CONF.66/BP/16.

178. Items 9 and 10 were considered by the Committee at its 1st to 15th meetings and at its 17th meeting, held between 20 June and 1 July 1975.

19. In accordance with the decision taken at the 17th plenary meeting of the Conference, all draft resolutions submitted under agenda item 8 were referred to the Second Committee. These texts, contained in documents E/CONF.66/L.2 to E/CONF.66/L.8, were considered at the 16th and 17th meetings of the Committee.

2. Discussion of general points relating to items 9 and 10

Equal rights, opportunities and responsibilities of men and women

180. The Committee agreed that the World Conference of the International Women's Year demonstrated the determination of the nations of the world to advance the position of women, eliminate discrimination against them, strengthen their position and ensure their equal rights with men within the family and society, as well as in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres. Representatives were unanimous in their hope that the Conference would lead to better understanding and solidarity among nations, provide an impetus to the advancement of women in society and devise methods and strategies that would enable women to have the same opportunities as men to be actively incorporated into the development process and to participate in all the tasks which the attainment of world peace entailed. An appeal was made to all States for determined, urgent and real general and complete disarmament especially nuclear disarmament through the application of concrete and effective measures towards a world of peace and understanding among nations.

181. Representatives considered that the struggle for genuine equality for women was an integral part of the struggle of peoples for national liberation and for economic and social emancipation. They condemned all forms of oppression and subjugation still prevailing in some regions of the world - colonialism, neo-colonialism, discrimination on grounds of sex, racial discrimination and apartheid, and the acquisition of territories by force - declaring that they infringed basic human rights and freedoms and were contrary to the principles of self-determination of peoples, sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States.

182. Representatives stressed that if the status of women was to be improved and true equality between men and women attained, radical changes would have to be carried out at the national and international levels. Various representatives thought that the new international economic order implied in those changes would require increasing participation by women in all spheres of life. Others however indicated that their objections to the new international economic order still stood. Representatives also stated that a profound change in the status of women would not be possible unless traditions and attitudes discriminating against women were overcome. Those attitudes might be found in both men and women and often expressed themselves indirectly or in disguise.

Equality in law and in practice

183. Several representatives indicated that great progress had been achieved towards the legal recognition of equal rights and responsibilities of men and women and that, in some countries, such equality had been a feature of government policy and legislation for a number of decades. They also noted that in various countries unequal treatment of the sexes and discrimination against women were still embodied in legislative and administrative provisions. All such provisions should be repealed and replaced by new legislation, which should be couched in sex-neutral terms. The view was expressed that it was also important to establish bodies such as human rights or civil rights commissions and appeals boards having full governmental support, which would take up specific cases of discrimination on the ground of sex, and would keep laws and regulations under systematic review so as to ensure that their provisions should not be discriminatory and should be applied fairly.

184. It was hoped that the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, currently under preparation by the Commission on the Status of Women, would be adopted by the General Assembly without delay so that it might become a comprehensive international instrument binding upon States parties to it.

185. Many representatives were of the opinion that special measures for the benefit of women were needed and would be needed for many years to come since, in most instances, there were many obstacles to be overcome before women achieved a position of equality with men and became truly integrated into the development process. They referred in particular to the need to establish, in countries where it did not already exist, special machinery, such as national commissions or women's bureaux. These should be established by Governments at the highest possible level and should collaborate with the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and should report to it periodically.

186. It was agreed that the actual enjoyment of equal rights, opportunities and responsibilities depended not only on legal equality but on many political, social, economic and cultural factors and was therefore an integral part of the over-all political situation as well as of the economic and social development of every country. It was considered necessary to create conditions that would make it possible for both women and men to develop their intellectual and physical potential and to participate actively and on equal terms in political processes and in the formulation, elaboration and execution of policies, strategies and programmes relating to socio-economic and cultural development, both at the national and the international level.

187. It was recognized that, in most countries, a wide gap existed between the de jure and the de facto situation of women. It was also emphasized that equality under the law had little meaning in conditions of poverty, when sheer survival required all the efforts, time and energy of both women and men.

188. The Committee noted that in spite of the fact that women had now attained primary political rights on equal terms with men under the law of almost all

countries, a wide gap existed between the formal recognition of those rights and the actual participation of women in the political structure of their countries. It was pointed out that, in most countries, the extent of women's representation in political bodies was limited, and was in no way proportionate to their percentage of the population and their abilities. Many representatives were encouraged, however, by the progress achieved in recent years in various parts of the world through the growing awareness of the need to integrate women more fully into the national political structure and in some cases through pressure from women's organizations and feminist groups. A warning was voiced on the dangers of tokenism and modest advances, which might perpetuate discrimination against women and continue to deprive society as a whole of a rich human potential that could contribute to its advancement.

189. Among the factors mentioned as accounting for the limited participation of women in politics were: lack of education, especially civic and political education, low self-esteem and lack of willingness to accept the responsibilities inherent in public positions, particularly positions of leadership, and inappropriate socialization resulting from societal attitudes and practices that discouraged women from being active in political life.

190. The Committee agreed that it was imperative to increase substantially the participation of women in elective and appointive positions, not only at the local and national levels, but also at the international level, and to achieve equitable representation of the sexes. Some representatives suggested the establishment of quotas for women in political bodies for an initial period until society accepted the active participation of women in political life. Others stressed the need for specific measures to encourage the representation of women in political organizations, parties and trade unions at all levels of the hierarchy, including the highest. Massive campaigns for the civic and political education of women were also proposed. For the success of such measures, it was felt that the official support of Governments for the principle of the equality of women and men in general and for the active participation of women in the political field in particular would have to be widely publicized in order that it might act as a catalyst.

Employment

191. Some representatives observed that in many countries, developed and developing, the participation of women in economically active life was more or less limited. It was likewise pointed out that underemployment was more common among women, as was marginal employment which, owing to the difficulty of checking the working conditions, often lent itself to extreme forms of exploitation.

192. An even more widespread form of discrimination resulted from the concentration of women in the least skilled tasks as a consequence of which the remuneration of women was lower, on average, than that of men, even when men and women received equal pay for equal work.

193. The obstacles to true equality between the sexes with regard to employment

were economic, social and cultural in nature. With respect to economic obstacles, several representatives made special mention of underdevelopment, territorial imbalances within countries and the orientation of investments. Among the most commonly cited social obstacles were the inadequacy of services for children, the sick and the old, while the main cultural obstacles could be found in the traditional attitude of society towards role differentiation, one of the most striking illustrations of which was the quantitative and qualitative differences in education.

The family

194. Representatives welcomed the fact that in many countries legislation had been enacted in recent years with a view to strengthening the family as a unit, and to achieving the equality of rights and responsibilities of both spouses at marriage, during marriage, and at its dissolution. They also noted that in certain countries the principle of equality and joint partnership of the spouses had been incorporated into the national law for several decades.

195. Some representatives referred to the enactment of legislation that had either abolished or restricted polygamy, a practice which they considered inconsistent with the dignity and worth of the woman as a human being and a barrier to her advancement and participation in the development process. Mention was also made of legislation enacted in some countries to reduce the abuses that had grown out of the institution of the dowry.

196. Various representatives welcomed the trend towards the raising of the minimum age of marriage. It was emphasized that marriage at an early age often prevented girls from completing their education or training, confined them to the home and subjected them to early and frequent pregnancies, which were injurious to their health, thus constituting a major obstacle to their integration in the development process. Governments that had not already done so were urged to become parties to the United Nations Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages.

197. Some representatives expressed concern about the acute problems faced by the nuclear family, which was caught in the rapid processes of modernization, urbanization, industrialization and migration. The desirability of encouraging the three-generational family as a means of promoting mutual understanding, harmony and solidarity among its various members was mentioned. The need for innovative housing programmes and appropriate social infrastructures was discussed. A number of delegations also pointed to the importance of supportive groupings other than the family. Others stressed the right of all individuals regardless of their marital or parental status to enjoy the benefits of social legislation.

198. It was recognized that in spite of the progress made in law, the patriarchal structure of family power and decision-making remained resistant to change and that, generally, the male, whether or not he was the recognized head of the family, made the important decisions affecting the family. There was wide acceptance of the view that as different States and social groups within those States had

created forms of the family to meet their differing economic and cultural needs, no one of these had more intrinsic value than another. It was recognized that in a rapidly changing society, a particular form might become outmoded and in fact might be a hindrance to the changing role of women in that society. It was suggested that each society should examine its own family institutions in the light of their impact on equality, economic independence and self-realization for women and develop appropriate programmes to assist them to become responsive to change.

199. It was also noted that, in most societies, women and girls shouldered almost all the burden of the housework, often from early childhood to old age. While, in certain countries, there had been a trend in recent years towards the sharing of family responsibilities between husband and wife, particularly when both worked outside the home, the sharing was not done on an equitable basis. Representatives noted the need for policies which would support and facilitate responsible parenthood and expressed the hope that, increasingly, both spouses would share in all tasks and responsibilities related to parenthood and homemaking. In the view of some representatives, boys and girls reared in conditions where their parents shared such responsibilities would be most likely to accept true equality of the sexes.

200. Several representatives emphasized the need for women to become economically independent and for Governments to assist them in achieving such independence. Many ways in which the lack of economic independence limited the options open to women were noted. For instance, it was pointed out that the inferior status of married women in the family was often a direct result of the economic power of the husband, which enabled him to dictate terms to the wife, who usually lacked the means of supporting herself and her children.

201. It was generally agreed that adequate standards of health, particularly the health of the mother, were necessary conditions for the exercise of rights and the utilization of opportunities. It was emphasized that, whenever necessary, Governments should mount comprehensive educational programmes in sanitation and health, as well as in food and nutrition, ensure full access to health care programmes and establish equal entitlement for women and men to social security.

202. Some representatives pointed out that the high fertility patterns prevailing in many societies resulted in the physical exhaustion of women and accounted to a large extent for their lack of energy and of time to be devoted to self-improvement and the acquisition of skills. High fertility, it was noted, was usually accompanied by low status of women and was frequently both a result and a cause of underdevelopment, thus forming a vicious circle.

203. Representatives stressed the sovereign right of each State to define and implement its demographic policy for social and economic development. The relationship between the number and spacing of children and the level of socio-economic progress was noted. Many representatives underlined the need for family planning both as a basic human right and as a means of solving population problems. In their view, Governments should make available to all persons the

necessary information and advice on family planning and provide adequate facilities and services to enable individuals and couples to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and to prepare young people for responsible parenthood. It was said that lack of access to such facilities and services had caused great hardship and suffering to women and their families at substantial social cost.

204. It was urged that women should be broadly represented on national and international boards and bodies, especially those dealing with the family and with population questions. The opinion was also expressed that in order to ensure the optimal utilization of existing resources, the United Nations organs and specialized agencies should be asked to co-ordinate their activities regarding population matters.

Education

205. Representatives noted that in many parts of the world even though women were guaranteed equal access to education under the law, they were seriously disadvantaged in practice. Some expressed great concern over the extent of illiteracy and the lack of facilities for formal education even at the primary level in a number of countries. While illiteracy affected both men and women, it was especially prevalent among women and its eradication was considered a matter for urgent national and international action.

206. Several factors were mentioned as causes of the disadvantaged position of women in education. Traditional cultural attitudes concerning the roles of women and men in the family and in society induced parents, wherever resources or facilities were limited, to accord preference to their sons who, it was assumed, would later have the responsibility of supporting their families. Inhibitions and conflicts were created in women themselves as they were often torn between the choice of continuing their education or getting married and having children and they were rarely assisted in combining the two. The necessity for young girls to assist their mothers around the house or the farm and in the rearing of younger brothers and sisters resulted in a high drop-out rate among girls especially at the secondary level.

207. It was proposed that research should be undertaken in order to identify customs, practices, attitudes and prejudices that hindered the advancement of women, with a view to recommending to Governments and private institutions the adoption of appropriate measures for the eradication of obstacles to the advancement of women. The results of such research should be used to enlighten the public on the need for women to be educated equally with men.

208. It was also emphasized that free, compulsory co-education should be encouraged and that the offerings in the curriculum should be the same for girls and boys. Some representatives were of the view that co-education should be offered where it was acceptable in the culture. Textbooks should be revised to eliminate the discriminatory presentation of the roles and status of women and men. Parents as well as girls and boys should be urged to recognize that girls needed to prepare for a future of economic independence and self-sufficiency.

209. In order to combat adult illiteracy, programmes of non-formal education

providing women with the minimum basic skills should be launched on a massive scale. In rural areas, programmes should be developed to promote functional literacy, the use of simple technology for agricultural needs, and the training of instructors. Women in rural areas should be given vocational and technical training that would meet their needs rather than the conventional training that was more usual in urban situations.

210. In order to permit a larger number of children to attend school, the free supply of school meals, clothing, medical care, books and transportation was also recommended.

211. Many representatives stressed that life-long education, free of charge, should be accessible to people of all ages through the formal and non-formal system, and that special efforts should be made to enable drop-outs to continue their education. They emphasized the desirability of developing programmes for persons wishing to broaden their cultural and intellectual horizons as well as their occupational options. In order to reach the maximum number of persons, all forms of media and technology should be fully utilized as part of the system of non-formal education.

Integration of women in the development process

212. Some representatives noted that intensified action to strengthen the position of women in society and to promote their integration in the development process was part of the goal of social and economic progress for all - a goal difficult to attain in a world where social, economic and political imbalance prevailed, and where the disparities between groups within the same country and between countries were widening. While national development possibilities and the participation of women therein were dependent on a number of factors, many representatives affirmed that the establishment of a new international economic order based inter alia on equality, sovereignty, and international co-operation and understanding was a prerequisite.

213. The discussion verified the great diversity in the situation of women, in their enjoyment of rights and responsibilities and in the degree of their integration into development efforts. It was however clear that it was not only a question of economic growth or of the stage of economic development, since many problems common to women in both developed and developing countries were identified.

214. It appeared that development and the attainment of economic and social goals would not automatically bring about the full integration of women and their participation on the basis of equality unless specific measures were taken to eliminate all forms of discrimination against them. It was stressed that such measures should be intensified regardless of the stage or style of a country's development.

215. An important element in the concept of development was that in addition to economic growth, the process of development implied social, structural,

technological and attitudinal change. Many delegations felt that a radical and fundamental economic and social transformation of society was a prerequisite of the improvement of the situation of women. It was also noted that this transformation would deeply affect the situation of both men and women, and that they should work together with the aim of achieving a dignified human role for both.

216. Some of the disadvantages women experienced in the process of change were discussed. Because of their reproductive functions and of the fact that women bore the main responsibility for family matters, women had been considered relatively less able than men to take advantage of opportunities for total involvement in the social and economic development of the society.

217. Further, in the process of development, women might lose the economic autonomy and status that went with the performance of their traditional functions. In many cases, new machines and new technological improvements as well as credit and other facilities, particularly in the agricultural sector, had been available only to men. Development had also created new industries in urban centres which had attracted men from rural areas, leaving women behind to cope alone. Development might also mean long hours of labour by women in factories, followed by hours of drudgery and housework at home. Concrete measures were needed to promote the economic independence of women and to support their social functions of maternity and the education of the next generation.

218. Many representatives expressed the view that women could achieve de facto equality and integration only under conditions in which they could satisfactorily combine their functions in economic, social, political and family life. Measures that would assist women to carry out all those functions were identified, including those that promoted health, education, nutrition, child care, civic and political training, vocational counselling and training, social welfare services and rural improvements. The needs of handicapped women should receive special attention.

219. Representatives recommended several measures for eliminating cultural and attitudinal obstacles to the advancement of women and their participation in development. They noted that various means of communication should be used to remove the cultural biases that perpetuated disadvantages to women, to provide information to women about available services and new opportunities and to present to the general public new norms and values concerning women. It was suggested that non-formal family life and parent education designed to bring about an attitudinal change could be organized for both men and women and that school curricula oriented towards equality between the sexes should be developed for children at all ages. It was suggested that women should seek to redefine development to mean a better quality of life for all rather than a mere rise in gross national product.

220. Several representatives gave priority to the need for improving the life of women in rural areas. In their view, particular emphasis should be placed on measures that would help them to improve their agricultural productivity, standard

of health, economic viability and participation in community life. Women's associations and groups could play a significant role in those efforts.

221. It was generally agreed that because indicators that would explain the status of women and give a clear and realistic picture of their situation were not available in many countries, those societies failed to see the implications of their participation. Where the contributions that women were currently making were not measured in economic terms there was no sound basis for designing strategies to increase or change those contributions. Representatives pointed to a need to gather hard data and full and accurate information about women and to improve the quality of the statistics. Among the particular areas on which research was needed the following were discussed: comprehensive studies on the actual situation of women in various countries, including types of work and earnings and stereotyped division of labour between men and women; collection of data on the elements that maintained sex-stereotyping in the upbringing of both girls and boys and in education; on the image of women projected by the mass media; and laws which prevented or limited the participation of women in economic activities (for example, protective labour laws and the impact of those laws and their implementation on women). It was also suggested that a way should be found to assess the economic value of the work of the homemaker.

222. The establishment of a research and training institute for the promotion of women was proposed. The institute would undertake the collection and dissemination of some of this information, particularly as a basis for policy and programme formulation. It would also train researchers to undertake, in their own countries, innovative research on women.

223. Throughout the discussion, representatives stressed the importance of the active participation of women in development efforts, and the wider inclusion of women in decision-making processes. The maximum utilization of human resources was an important consideration for development, and the costs to society of the unequal opportunities for women to participate were noted. It was also hoped that the increasing participation of women in national and international affairs would become a major contribution to the achievement of the goals of equality, development and peace and to understanding and co-operation within and among States.

224. It was emphasized that the United Nations system had a significant role to play both in the implementation of new approaches to development and in fostering the climate needed for their successful implementation.

225. In order to carry out all the programmes and suggestions made, it was strongly recommended that various forms of assistance be provided to Governments by the relevant United Nations agencies and international bodies as well as by bilateral assistance programmes. Non-governmental organizations, especially women's organizations, should be encouraged to play a supportive role in activities directed towards the integration of women in development.

3. Consideration of draft resolutions
submitted under items 9 and 10 1/

226. The Committee considered the draft resolutions submitted under items 9 and 10 at its 7th to 16th meetings.

227. In all, 58 draft resolutions were submitted, of which E/CONF.66/C.2/L.1 to E/CONF.66/C.2/L.14 were issued in all working languages. Documents E/CONF.66/C.2/L.15 to E/CONF.66/C.2/L.58 were issued provisionally in the language in which they were submitted. As many of the draft resolutions covered the same subjects, informal working groups were formed for the purpose of arriving at consolidated texts. As a result of those consultations, 20 draft resolutions were submitted. They were reproduced as documents E/CONF.66/C.2/L.10/Rev.1, E/CONF.66/C.2/L.59 to E/CONF.66/C.2/L.77 and E/CONF.66/C.2/L.79.

228. At the 7th meeting, the Committee received a draft resolution entitled "Prevention of the exploitation of women and girls" (E/CONF.66/C.2/L.10). At the 9th meeting, it received a revised text (E/CONF.66/C.2/L.10/Rev.1). The revised draft resolution, as further revised during the discussion, was adopted, as draft resolution I, without a vote. (For action taken in plenary, see para. 263 below; for the final text, see part one, chap. III, resolution 7.)

229. At the 8th meeting, the Committee received a draft resolution entitled "The situation of women in the employ of the United Nations and specialized agencies" (E/CONF.66/C.2/L.59). At the 9th meeting, after a discussion, the Committee adopted, as draft resolution II, the draft resolution, as amended during the discussion, without a vote. (For action taken in plenary, see para. 264 below; for the final text, see part one, chap. III, resolution 8.)

230. At the 8th meeting, the Committee received a draft resolution entitled "Protection of maternal and child health" (E/CONF.66/C.2/L.60). At the 12th meeting, the Committee adopted a revised draft resolution (E/CONF.66/C.2/L.60/Rev.1) without a vote, as draft resolution III. (For action taken in plenary, see para. 265 below; for the final text, see part one, chap. III, resolution 9.)

231. At the 8th meeting, the Committee received a draft resolution entitled "Access of women to financial assistance" (E/CONF.66/C.2/L.61). The draft resolution, as revised during the discussion, was adopted, as draft resolution IV, without a vote. (For action taken in plenary, see para. 266 below; for the final text, see part one, chap. III, resolution 10.)

232. At the 10th meeting, the Committee received a draft resolution entitled "Research on population and the integration of women in development" (E/CONF.66/C.2/L.62). The draft resolution, as revised during the discussion,

1/ A list of the draft resolutions submitted to the Second Committee, showing the names of the sponsors, is given in annex I.

was adopted, as draft resolution V, by 70 votes to none, with 5 abstentions. (For action taken in plenary, see para. 257 below; for the final texts see part one, chap. III, resolution 11.)

233. At the 14th meeting, the Committee received a revised draft resolution entitled "Special resources for the integration of women in development" (E/CONF.66/C.2/L.63/Rev.1). The revised draft resolution, as further revised and amended during the discussion, was adopted, as draft resolution VI, without a vote. (For action taken in plenary, see para. 269 below; for the final text, see part one, chap. III, resolution 12.)

234. At the 8th meeting, the Committee received a draft resolution entitled "Social security and family security for women, including the elderly and the disabled" (E/CONF.66/C.2/L.64). At the 10th meeting, the Committee received the revised text of the draft resolution. At the 14th meeting, the Committee received a further revision of the draft resolution (E/CONF.66/C.2/L.64/Rev.1). Following a lengthy discussion, the revised draft resolution, as further revised during the discussion, was adopted, as draft resolution VII, by 96 votes to 1, with 8 abstentions. (For action taken in plenary, see para. 270 below; for the final text, see part one, chap. III, resolution 13.)

235. At the 9th meeting, the Committee received a draft resolution entitled "Research for the formulation of policies concerning the integration of women in the development process" (E/CONF.66/C.2/L.65). At the 10th meeting, the Committee adopted without a vote, as draft resolution VIII, the draft resolution as revised by the sponsors. (For action taken in plenary, see para. 272 below; for the final text, see part one, chap. III, resolution 14.)

236. At the 12th meeting, the Committee received a draft resolution entitled "Family planning and the full integration of women in development" (E/CONF.66/C.2/L.66). At the 13th meeting, the Committee received a revised text of the draft resolution. After a lengthy discussion, it adopted the revised draft resolution, as draft resolution IX, by 29 votes to 13, with 10 abstentions. (For action taken in plenary, see para. 273 below; for the final text, see part one, chap. III, resolution 15.)

237. At the 10th meeting, the Committee received a draft resolution entitled "Popular participation" (E/CONF.66/C.2/L.67). The draft resolution, as revised during the discussion, was adopted, as draft resolution X, without a vote. (For action taken in plenary, see para. 275 below; for the final text, see part one, chap. III, resolution 16.)

238. At the 11th and 12th meetings, the Committee considered a draft resolution entitled "The family" (E/CONF.66/C.2/L.68). The draft resolution, as amended during the discussion, was adopted, as draft resolution XI, by 38 votes to 1, with 32 abstentions. (For action taken in plenary, see para. 276 below; for the final text, see part one, chap. III, resolution 17.)

239. At the 12th meeting, the Committee received a draft resolution entitled "Political and social participation" (E/CONF.66/C.2/L.69).

240. The draft resolution, as revised during the discussion, was adopted, as draft resolution XII, without a vote. (For action taken in plenary, see para. 278 below; for the final text, see part one, chap. III, resolution 18.)

241. At the 11th meeting, the Committee received a draft resolution entitled "Women and communication media" (E/CONF.66/C.2/L.70).

242. The draft resolution, as revised during the discussion was adopted, as draft resolution XIII, without a vote. (For action taken in plenary, see para. 279 below; for the final text, see part one, chap. III, resolution 19.)

243. At the 15th meeting, the Committee received a draft resolution entitled "Integration of women in the process of political, economic, social and cultural development as equal partners with men" (E/CONF.66/C.2/L.71). The draft resolution, as revised and amended during the discussions, was adopted, as draft resolution XIV, by 77 votes to 7, with 16 abstentions. (For action taken in plenary, see paras. 280-286 below; for the final text, see part one, chap. III, resolution 20.)

244. At the 10th meeting, the Committee received a draft resolution entitled "Condition of women in rural areas" (E/CONF.66/C.2/L.72). The draft resolution, as revised during the discussion, was adopted, as draft resolution XV, by 62 votes to 5, with 5 abstentions. (For action taken in plenary, see para. 288 below; for the final text, see part one, chap. III, resolution 21.)

245. At the 10th meeting, the Committee received a draft resolution entitled "Women and development" (E/CONF.66/C.2/L.73/Rev.1). The Committee adopted, as draft resolution XVI, the revised draft resolution, as revised during the discussion, by 22 votes to 9, with 46 abstentions. (For action taken in plenary, see para. 290 below; for the final text, see part one, chap. III, resolution 22.)

246. At the 11th meeting, the Committee received a draft resolution entitled "Revision and expansion of International Standard Classifications of Occupations" (E/CONF.66/C.2/L.74). The draft resolution, as revised during the discussion, was adopted, as draft resolution XVII, without a vote. (For action taken in plenary, see para. 292 below; for the final text, see part one, chap. III, resolution 23.)

247. At the 13th meeting the Committee received a draft resolution entitled "Education and training" (E/CONF.66/C.2/L.75). After a prolonged discussion, the Committee adopted, without a vote, as draft resolution XVIII, the draft resolution, as revised during the discussion. (For action taken in plenary, see para. 293 below; for the final text, see part one, chap. III, resolution 24.)

248. At the 13th meeting, the Committee received a draft resolution entitled "Equality between men and women and elimination of discrimination against women" (E/CONF.66/C.2/L.76). The draft resolution was adopted, as draft resolution XIX, without a vote. (For action taken in plenary, see para. 294 below; for the final text, see part one, chap. III, resolution 25.)

249. At the 13th meeting, the Committee received a draft resolution entitled "International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women" (E/CONF.66/C.2/L.77). The draft resolution, as revised during the discussion was adopted, as draft resolution XX, without a vote. (For action taken in plenary, see para. 295 below; for the final text, see part one, chap. III, resolution 26.)

250. At the 15th meeting, the Committee received a draft resolution entitled "Measures for the integration of women in development" (E/CONF.66/C.2/L.79). The draft resolution, as revised during the discussion, was adopted, as draft resolution XXI, without a vote. (For action taken in plenary, see para. 296 below; for the final text, see part one, chap. III, resolution 27.)

4. Consideration of draft resolutions submitted under agenda item 8

251. At its 16th and 17th meetings, the Committee considered a number of resolutions submitted under agenda item 8 (E/CONF.66/L.2-L.9).

252. At the 16th meeting, the Committee received a draft resolution entitled "Women's participation in promoting world peace and international co-operation" (E/CONF.66/L.2), as well as an amendment to it (E/CONF.66/L.9), which was subsequently accepted by the sponsors of the draft resolution. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as revised without a vote, as draft resolution XXII. (For action taken in plenary, see para. 298 below; for the final text, see part one, chap. III, resolution 28.)

253. At the 16th meeting, the Committee received a draft resolution entitled "Women's participation in the strengthening of international peace and security and in the struggle against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination and foreign domination" (E/CONF.66/L.3). After a discussion, the Committee adopted the draft resolution as revised during the discussion, by 58 votes to 1, with 28 abstentions, as draft resolution XXIII. (For action taken in plenary, see para. 299 below; for the final text, see part one, chap. III, resolution 29.)

254. At the 16th meeting, the Committee received a draft resolution entitled "The question of the Panamanian territory called the 'Canal Zone'" (E/CONF.66/L.4 and Add.1). After a discussion, the Committee adopted the draft resolution (E/CONF.66/L.4 and Add.1) by 58 votes to none, with 41 abstentions, as draft resolution XXIV.

255. At the 16th meeting, the Committee received a draft resolution (E/CONF.66/L.5) entitled "Women's contribution to world peace through participation in international conferences". At the 17th meeting, the draft resolution, as revised, was adopted by 72 votes to none, with 8 abstentions, as draft resolution XXV. (For action taken in plenary, see para. 302 below; for the final text, see part one, chap. III, resolution 31.)

256. At the 16th meeting, the Committee received a draft resolution (E/CONF.66/L.6) entitled "Palestinian and Arab women". A separate vote was taken by roll-call on the fifth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution. The Committee adopted that paragraph by 65 votes to 13, with 34 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, India, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Republic, Malaysia, Mali,

Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, People's Democratic Republic of Korea, Republic of South Viet-Nam, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: Bahamas, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Central African Republic, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chad, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Fiji, France, Germany (Federal Republic of), 2/ Grenada, Haiti, Holy See, Honduras, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, Nepal, Spain, New Zealand, Paraguay, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Switzerland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela.

257. On a roll-call vote requested by Israel, the Committee adopted, as draft resolution XXVI, the draft resolution (E/CONF.66/L.6) as a whole, by 71 votes to 3, with 40 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Dancoey, Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Republic, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, People's Democratic Republic of Korea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Republic of South Viet-Nam, Romania, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: Bahamas, Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany (Federal Republic of), Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, 3/ Haiti, Holy See,

2/ The representative of the Federal Republic of Germany informed the Committee that his vote on the fifth preambular paragraph should have been registered as a negative vote rather than as an abstention.

3/ The representative of Guyana stated that his vote on the draft resolution as a whole should have been registered as a vote in favour of the draft resolution rather than as an abstention.

Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Portugal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, San Marino, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela.

(For action taken in plenary, see para. 303 below, and for the final text, see part one, chap. III, resolution 32.)

258. At its 16th meeting, the Committee received a draft resolution (L/CONF.66/L.7) entitled "Aid to the Viet-Namese people". After a discussion, the draft resolution (E/CONF.66/L.7), as revised, was adopted by 91 votes to none, with 7 abstentions, as draft resolution XXVII. (For action taken in plenary, see para. 305 below, and for the final text, see part one, chap. III, resolution 33.)

259. At its 17th meeting, the Committee received a draft resolution (E/CONF.66/L.8), entitled "The situation of women in Chile". The draft resolution (E/CONF.66/L.8), as revised during the discussion, was adopted as draft resolution XXVIII without a vote. (For action taken in plenary, see para. 306 below, and for the final text, see part one, chap. III, resolution 34.)

5. Recommendations of the Second Committee

260. The Second Committee recommends to the Conference the adoption of the draft resolutions (I to XXVIII) adopted by the Committee.

B. Action taken in plenary on the report of the Second Committee

261. At the 24th plenary meeting, the Rapporteur of the Second Committee submitted the Committee's report (E/CONF.66/C.2/L.76 and Add.1 and 2), recommending the adoption by the Conference of the 28 draft resolutions, numbered I to XXVIII, adopted by the Committee. The Conference considered the report at its 24th and 25th plenary meetings.

262. The Conference considered the parts of the report relating to agenda items 9 and 10 and took the following action on the draft resolutions recommended by the Committee.

263. Draft resolution I ("Prevention of the exploitation of women and girls") was adopted without a vote. (For the text of the resolution, see part one, chap. III, resolution 7.)

264. Draft resolution II ("The situation of women in the employ of the United Nations and specialized agencies") was adopted without a vote. (For the text of the resolution, see part one, chap. III, resolution 8.)

265. Draft resolution III ("Protection of maternal and child health") was adopted without a vote. (For the text of the resolution, see part one, chap. III, resolution 9.)

266. Draft resolution IV ("Access of women to financial assistance") was adopted without a vote. (For the text of the resolution, see part one, chap. III, resolution 10.)

267. Draft resolution V ("Research on population and the integration of women in development") was adopted without a vote. (For the text of the resolution, see part one, chap. III, resolution 11.)

268. Before the vote on draft resolution V, statements were made in explanation of vote by the representatives of Argentina, Chile and Uruguay.

269. Draft resolution VI ("Special resources for the integration of women in development") was adopted without a vote. (For the text of the resolution, see part one, chap. III, resolution 12.)

270. Draft resolution VII ("Social security and family security for women, including the elderly and the handicapped") was adopted by 91 votes to none, with 14 abstentions. (For the text of the resolution, see part one, chap. III, resolution 13.)

271. The representatives of Honduras and the Federal Republic of Germany made statements in explanation of vote on draft resolution VII.

272. Draft resolution VIII ("Research for the formulation of policies concerning the integration of women in the development process") was adopted without a vote. (For the text of the resolution, see part one, chap. III, resolution 14.)

273. Draft resolution IX ("Family planning and the full integration of women in development") was adopted by 77 votes to 4, with 15 abstentions. (For the text of the resolution, see part one, chap. III, resolution 15.)

274. After the vote on draft resolution IX, statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of Uruguay, Mexico, Argentina, Peru, Ethiopia and Cuba.

275. Draft resolution X ("Popular participation") was adopted without a vote. (For the text of the resolution, see part one, chap. III, resolution 16.)

276. Draft resolution XI ("The family") was adopted by 84 votes to none, with 16 abstentions. (For the text of the resolution, see part one, chap. III, resolution 17.)

277. The representative of Uruguay made a statement in explanation of vote on draft resolution XI.

278. Draft resolution XII ("Political and social participation") was adopted without a vote. (For the text of the resolution, see part one, chap. III, resolution 18.)

279. Draft resolution XIII ("Women and communication media") was adopted without a vote. (For the text of the resolution, see part one, chap. III, resolution 19.)

280. In the course of its consideration of draft resolution XIV ("Integration of women in the process of political, economic, social and cultural development as equal partners with men") the Conference adopted two new paragraphs proposed by Guatemala.

281. The first, to be inserted after operative paragraph 9, read as follows:

"Requests Governments to adopt the necessary measures and strengthen their special programmes for ethnic groups in order to integrate them into the new society."

The amendment was adopted by 31 votes to 1, with 16 abstentions.

282. The second paragraph, for insertion after the former operative paragraph 12 (now 13), read as follows:

"Requests the specialized agencies to provide assistance, at the request of Governments, for the attainment of the objectives proposed herein and for improving the lives of indigenous women."

The amendment was adopted by 34 votes to 10, with 11 abstentions.

283. The delegation of the Dominican Republic proposed an amendment to the former operative paragraph 12 (now 13) of the draft text, calling for the replacement of the words after "organizations" by the words "to adopt the necessary measures to

enable women and men to participate as equal partners in decision-making". The amendment was adopted by 66 votes to none, with 11 abstentions.

284. The representative of Peru proposed the replacement of the words "to assist women in making their contribution" in the fourth paragraph of the preamble by the words "which will enable women to exercise their right to contribute". The amendment was adopted by 75 votes to 1, with 15 abstentions.

285. The representative of Peru also proposed the insertion of the following words in the former operative paragraph 13 (now 15) of the draft, after the words "triple role": "in the family, as a productive labour force and active agents of change, and as joint participants in the destiny of their communities". The amendment was adopted by 50 votes to 2, with 6 abstentions.

286. Draft resolution XIV as a whole, as amended, was adopted by 90 votes to 6, with 13 abstentions. (For the text of the resolution, see part one, chap. III, resolution 20.)

287. The representatives of Sweden, China, Albania, Switzerland and the Federal Republic of Germany made statements in explanation of vote on draft resolution XIV.

288. At the 25th plenary meeting, draft resolution XV ("Condition of women in rural areas") was adopted by 56 votes to none, with 8 abstentions. (For the text of the resolution, see part one, chap. III, resolution 21.)

289. The representatives of Brazil and the Federal Republic of Germany made statements in explanation of vote on draft resolution XV.

290. Draft resolution XVI ("Women and development") was adopted by 80 votes to 3, with 13 abstentions. (For the text of the resolution, see part one, chap. III, resolution 22.)

291. The representative of Albania made a statement in explanation of vote on draft resolution XVI.

292. Draft resolution XVII ("Revision and expansion of the International Standard Classifications of Occupations") was adopted without a vote. (For the text of the resolution, see part one, chap. III, resolution 23.)

293. Draft resolution XVIII ("Education and training") was adopted without a vote. (For the text of the resolution, see part one, chap. III, resolution 24.)

294. Draft resolution XIX ("Equality between men and women and elimination of discrimination against women") was adopted without a vote. (For the text of the resolution, see part one, chap. III, resolution 25.)

295. Draft resolution XX ("International Research and Training Institute for the Promotion of Women") was adopted without a vote. (For the text of the resolution, see part one, chap. III, resolution 26.)

296. Draft resolution XXI ("Measures for the integration of women in development") was adopted without a vote. (For the text of the resolution, see part one, chap. III, resolution 27.)

297. At the 25th plenary meeting the Conference considered the part of the report of the Second Committee in which the Committee recommended for adoption seven draft resolutions submitted under agenda item 8 (E/CONF.66/C.2/L.78/Add.2). The draft resolutions had originally been submitted in plenary as draft resolutions E/CONF.66/L.2-L.8 and were subsequently referred to the Second Committee for consideration, in accordance with the decision taken by the Conference at its 17th plenary meeting. The Conference took the following action on the draft resolutions recommended by the Committee.

298. Draft resolution XXII ("Women's participation in promoting world peace and international co-operation") was adopted without a vote. (For the text of the resolution, see part one, chap. III, resolution 28.)

299. Draft resolution XXIII ("Women's participation in the strengthening of international peace and security and in the struggle against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination and foreign domination") was adopted by 75 votes to 2, with 22 abstentions. (For the text of the resolution, see part one, chap. III, resolution 29.)

300. The representatives of Sweden and Albania made statements in explanation of vote or reservations on draft resolution XXIII.

301. Draft resolution XXIV ("The question of the Panamanian territory called the 'Canal Zone'") was adopted by 58 votes to none, with 33 abstentions. (For the text of the resolution, see part one, chap. III, resolution 30.)

302. Draft resolution XXV ("Women's contribution to world peace through participation in international conferences") was adopted unanimously. (For the text of the resolution, see part one, chap. III, resolution 31.)

303. At the request of the representative of Israel, draft resolution XXVI ("Palestinian and Arab women") was put to the vote by roll-call. The text was adopted by 66 votes to 3, with 35 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam, Egypt, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Republic, Malaysia, Mali, Morocco, Mexico, Mongolia, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of South Viet-Nam, Romania, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunis, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Against: Israel, Netherlands, 4/ United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany (Federal Republic of), Grenada, Guatemala, Holy See, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Nepal, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Venezuela.

(For the text of the resolution, see part one, chap. III, resolution 32.)

304. Statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of Israel, Italy, Argentina, Jordan, Portugal, Uruguay, Venezuela and Iraq.

305. Draft resolution XXVII ("Aid to the Viet-Nameese people") was adopted by 94 votes to none, with 6 abstentions. (For the text of the resolution, see part one, chap. III, resolution 33.)

306. Draft resolution XXVIII ("The situation of women in Chile") was adopted without a vote. (For the text of the resolution, see part one, chap. III, resolution 34.)

307. Statements in explanation of vote or reservations were made by the representatives of Chile, Argentina, Brazil, the United States of America, Paraguay, Colombia, Honduras, the Ivory Coast, Costa Rica, Fiji, Uruguay, Bolivia, Ecuador, China and Nicaragua.

4/ The representative of the Netherlands subsequently stated that his delegation had intended to abstain and not to vote against the draft resolution.

308. At this juncture of the proceedings of the Conference, a number of delegations made general statements in explanation of vote or of reservation on the draft resolutions recommended by the Second Committee under agenda items 8, 9 and 10. The statements supplemented other statements which certain delegations had made after the adoption of specific draft resolutions and which have been indicated above. General statements were made by the representatives of Albania, Switzerland, Finland, Brazil, Sweden, Cuba, China, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Peru, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Poland, Iran, Nicaragua, the Federal Republic of Germany and Belgium.