**United Nations**

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE THIRTEENTH MEETING**

Held at Lake Success, New York, on Tuesday, 13 February 1947, at 3:50 p.m.

Present:

**Chairman:** Mrs. E. Begtrup (Denmark)

**Vice-Chairman:** Mrs. J. Street (Australia)

**Rapporteur:** Mrs. E. Uralova (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic)

**Members:**
- Mrs. W. S. Nisw (China)
- Mrs. G. de Escioveria (Costa Rica)
- Mrs. Y. LeFaucheur (France)
- Miss S. Basorechea (Guatemala)
- Mrs. Hamid Ali (India)
- Mrs. A. de Costillo de Ledon (Mexico)
- Mrs. C. Cosma (Syria)
- Mrs. E. Popova (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)
- Miss M. Sutherland (United Kingdom)
- Miss D. Kenyon (United States of America)
- Mrs. I. Urdaneta (Venezuela)

Representatives of Specialized Agencies:

- Mrs. E. Rowe (ILO)
- Miss J. Meads (UNESCO)

Consultants of Non-Governmental Organizations:

- Miss L. Spiegel (WFITU)
- Mr. J. Humphrey (Director, Division of Human Rights)
- Mr. E. Lowson (Division of Human Rights)
- Miss E. Boveman (Secretary of the Commission)

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**Consideration of Item 5 of the Agenda, Relations with Non-Governmental Organizations and Arrangements for Hearing their Views (Continued)**

The CHAIRMAN suggested a vote on the proposal that representatives of non-governmental organizations interested in the Commission’s work should be permitted.
permit to make statements at the fourteenth meeting. Those statements
should be limited to five minutes.

Mrs. A. de COSTILLO de LEDON (Mexico) felt that since only the Women's
International Democratic Federation had applied for a hearing, that
organization alone should make a statement at the fourteenth meeting. Other
organizations which might apply should be heard on the following day.

Miss KENYON (United States of America) said that all the organizations
which might apply before the fourteenth meeting should be heard then.

The CHAIRMAN, answering a question by Mrs. POPOVA (Union of Soviet
Socialist Republics), made it clear that only international non-governmental
organizations were involved.

DECISION: The Commission, by thirteen votes to none, adopted the
proposal that representatives of non-governmental organizations
should be permitted to make five minute statements at the
fourteenth meeting if they had applied before that meeting,
and on the following day in all other cases.

2. Consideration of Item 11 of the Agenda, Co-ordination with Other
Commissions (documents E/Ch.6/7 and A/125)

Mrs. LEFAUCHEUX (France) submitted a "Draft Resolution concerning relations
with the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the
Protection of Minorities", as follows:

The Commission on the Status of Women recommends that the Economic
and Social Council call to the attention of the Sub-Commission on the
Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities the
importance that the Commission on the Status of Women attaches to the
work of this Sub-Commission.

The Commission wishes to be informed of the constitution, and of
the efforts of the aforementioned Sub-Commission towards the development
of the rights of women in the various minority groups in the political,
economic, social and cultural fields.

The best organization of such co-operation between the two organs
would be the effective participation of a representative of the
Commission on the Status of Women in the work of the Sub-Commission on
the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities.

The Members from France pointed out that women were affected by
discrimination since many of them were members of minority groups. The

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Commission on the Status of Women should therefore, within its term of reference, concern itself with the welfare of those women. To that end, co-operation with the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities was essential.

In reply to Mrs. STREET (Australia), Mrs. LEFAUCHEUX (France) expressed the view that in practice, one of the Commission's members should be responsible for liaison with the Sub-Commission. It would be advisable to distribute among the Commission's members the work as regards liaison with other United Nations bodies.

Mrs. URALOVA (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) agreed that the Commission should take an active interest in the welfare of women members of minority groups. She supported the French proposal.

DECISION: The draft Resolution concerning relation with the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities was adopted by thirteen votes to none.

Three draft Resolutions were then submitted on the subject of co-operation with the Social Commission. The Chairman's proposal called attention especially to Sections I, C and II, II of the programme developed by the nuclear Sub-Commission on the Status of Women. The proposals by the Members from Australia and France concerned especially Housing and Town Planning.

In connection with her proposal, Mrs. LEFAUCHEUX (France) stressed women's interest in housing, a problem which had not been solved satisfactorily anywhere in the world. The Commission was interested in the Service of Housing and Town Planning to be established within the Division of Social Affairs.

Miss KENYON (United States of America) suggested that in view of the similarity of the three proposals, a drafting committee or the Secretariat should be asked to combine them.

Mrs. POPOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) supported Miss Kenyon's view.
view. She agreed with the objectives of the French proposal, but wondered to what extent they were compatible with the Secretariat's resources. She also wished to know what practical means of co-operation were envisaged.

Mrs. LEFAUCHEUX (France) stressed that the creation of a Housing and Town Planning service had already been recommended by the Social Commission. When that service was established, the Commission on the Status of Women should co-operate with it. As regards practical methods, she thought that one of the Commission's members should keep the others informed of the work being done in the field of housing and town planning, particularly those aspects which also concerned women.

Mr. LAWSON (Secretariat) suggested the postponement of the discussion until the Secretariat had prepared a draft resolution combining the ideas of the proposals of the Members from Australia, Denmark and France.

Mrs. URALOVA (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) felt that some general decisions should be taken as regards relations with other Commissions before the relations with any particular Commissions were decided upon. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the question was dealt with in a Memorandum by the Division of Human Rights (document E/CH.6/1). Mrs. URALOVA then questioned the advisability of taking special decisions on the subject of co-ordination in every Commission. Uniform practices might be more desirable.

Mr. LAWSON (Secretariat) suggested that the co-ordination of the Commission's work might most appropriately be done through the Economic and Social Council. He called attention especially to Items 4 to 8, inclusive, of the Memorandum, where practical suggestions were outlined on the procedure which might be adopted. It was believed that those suggestions would prove adequate for the time being. As regards the suggestion of the Member from France, the problem of distance should be considered. Since most of the Members did not reside permanently at the seat of the Organizational they might find it difficult to follow the work of other United Nations bodies and to inform the other Members. It might be advisable to ask the Secretariat /to forward
to forward to all the Members pertinent documentation outlining the work of other United Nations organs, the activities of which were related to those of the Commission.

Mrs. LEFAUCHEUX (France) had no objection to that procedure provided the Members were assured of receiving the documentation.


The CHAIRMAN called attention to the following draft proposal submitted by the Member from Guatemala:

The Commission supports wholeheartedly the ILO Declaration of Philadelphia adopted on 17 May 1941 stating that "all human beings, irrespective of race, creed or sex, have the right to pursue both their material well-being and spiritual development in conditions of freedom and of economic security and equal opportunity."

The Commission requests the ILO to send the appropriate literature to all members of the Commission before its next Session to enable them to study the work done in the past by the ILO in relation to the principles of the Commission.

Mrs. ROWE (ILO) wished to inform the Commission of her organization's current work. She said that she would supplement the information contained in the documents already distributed.

Firstly, the ILO was bringing up to date its international survey on the law and women's war and women's employment in belligerent countries. The work, and social insurance. Secondly, a study was in preparation on the subject of the work and women's employment in belligerent countries. The problem of equal pay without discrimination on the basis of sex formed the object of another ILO study.

Reports on the following subjects were in preparation as a basis for possible future action by the International Labour Conference: Social home-aid service; the international aspect of industrial homework; the status of domestic workers, etc.

More specialized studies concerned the economic and social status of women with particular regard to their employment (to be presented to the Preparatory
Preparatory Conference of Asiatic States in New Delhi); a similar survey for the Middle East; special studies of women workers in the coal, inland transport, and textile industries, etc.

Furthermore, the Thirtieth Session of the International Labour Conference in Geneva might consider draft conventions on child birth, night work, and employment underground as regards non-metropolitan areas. A general convention had been drafted on the subject of the social policy of dependent areas; a section on the status of women, with particular reference to discrimination in employment and working conditions, was included in that convention.

Lastly, the organization of national employment services in connection with the needs of women workers would be discussed at the International Labour Conference.

Mrs. URALOVA (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) stressed the importance of a decision on co-operation with the specialized agencies. The Commission could not take action on such important subjects without a thorough study of the documentation; the constitutions, programmes and decisions of the specialized agencies should be well understood before any action on the subject. For her part, she did not feel able to go further for the time being than adopting a resolution expressing that the Commission's readiness to co-operate with the specialized agencies in the framework of the agreements between those organs and the United Nations.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the Guatemalan proposal made provision for a thorough study of the ILO's documents. The first paragraph expressed support for one specific item of the ILO Declaration of Philadelphia, not of the whole ILO programme.

Mrs. URALOVA (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) considered that the second paragraph alone of the Guatemalan proposal should be adopted. The Commission might also wish to study the work done by bodies such as the WFTU before taking action as regards the ILO.

Mr. LAWSON (Secretariat) wished to point out that the Commission could
make no requests of the ILO directly, but only recommendations to the Economic and Social Council, which in turn might decide to communicate with the ILO. At any rate, the Secretariat was in a position to supply all the appropriate literature and documentation without the adoption of a special resolution.

Miss KENYON (United States of America) agreed that it was desirable to get more information on the ILO's work. In view of the observation of the representative of the Secretariat, the second paragraph might be re-worded as follows: "The Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council to request the Secretary-General to request the ILO to send ...". The resolution was useful as an expression of the Commission's readiness to co-operate with the ILO although the Secretariat could supply all the necessary documentation to the Members.

Miss SUTHERLAND (United Kingdom) supported the resolution tabled by the representative of Guatemala, and said it was important that the Commission should take note of what specialized agencies had done in the field in which it was interested. The women's organizations of Great Britain had been very gratified when in 1944 the ILO made such a clear declaration on the point of equality of all human beings irrespective of race, creed or sex. Referring to the second part of the resolution proposed by the representative of Guatemala, she thought it should be amended as suggested by the representative of the United States of America. Any overlapping or duplication of work already done by the ILO should be avoided.

Mrs. POPCOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that as she was not acquainted with the Declaration of Philadelphia she wished to have time to study it.

Miss KENYON (United States of America) pointed out that the first paragraph of the resolution was a quotation which described the work in which the Commission was interested.

Mrs. URAIOVA (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic), Rapporteur, stated /that the
that the resolution affirmed that the Commission supported the ILO Declaration. She felt that members of the Commission should be acquainted with the Declaration of Philadelphia before they expressed any opinion, and the work of the ILO and the UNWU were closely related; the latter body should also be asked to submit information.

Miss BASTERRECHEA (Guatemala) pointed out that in the resolution which she had submitted the Commission was supporting only that part of the Declaration of Philadelphia which had been quoted.

Miss KAHN (United States of America) suggested the insertion of the words "the statement in" after the word "wholeheartedly" in the first line of the resolution proposed by the representative of Guatemala.

Mrs. STREET (Australia) considered that as certain members of the Commission were not acquainted with the Declaration of Philadelphia the first paragraph of the resolution should be deleted.

The representative of Guatemala agreed to this.

The CHAIRMAN put to the vote resolution submitted by the representative of Guatemala, the first paragraph deleted, and the second paragraph as amended by the representative of the United States of America.

**DECISION:** The resolution was adopted by eleven votes with four abstentions.

Miss SUTHERLAND (United Kingdom) moved the following resolution:

"The Commission supports wholeheartedly the statement in the ILO Declaration of Philadelphia that all human beings irrespective of race, creed, or sex, have the right to pursue both their material well-being and spiritual development in conditions of freedom and of economic security and equal opportunity."

The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the resolution submitted by the representative of the United Kingdom.

**DECISION:** The resolution was adopted by eleven votes to one.

Mrs. URALOVA (Byelorussian Socialist Soviet Republic) said she did not disapprove of the sentence quoted but had abstained from voting because she was not acquainted with the Declaration of Philadelphia as a whole.

/Miss SPIEGEL
Miss SPIEGEL (WFTU) considered that there had been a mistake regarding the status of the World Federation of Trade Unions, and pointed out that the Commission would have to deal with two different types of non-governmental agencies. The WFTU was greatly interested in the work of the Commission on the Status of Women and wished to help the Commission with its work. Although it had been set up only two years ago, the WFTU represented seventy-one million people in fifty-six countries, and was interested in the economic, social, civil and political rights of the worker all over the world, on the basis of equality for men and women.

At the next session of the Commission of the WFTU would submit data which it had been able to collect owing to the position it occupied in relation to world labour.

Referring to the discussions which had taken place at the morning's meeting, Miss Spiegel said she was surprised at the rejection of the resolution submitted by the representative of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and drew attention to the fact that Fascism was against all women's rights.

Mrs. HAMID ALI (India) stated that the remarks of Miss Spiegel regarding the morning's discussions were out of order, and moved the closure of the debate.

Mrs. POPOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republic) considered that the Commission should continue to hear the statements of the representative of the WFTU.

The CHAIRMAN, referring to Rule 52 of the Rules of Procedure, put to the vote the proposal that the debate should be closed.

DECISION: The proposal was adopted by seven votes to two, with four abstentions.

The CHAIRMAN said that the members of the Commission were wholeheartedly interested in the work of the WFTU and that the Commission would be deeply interested in hearing any proposals that body might bring before it concerning the status of women all over the world.

/Mrs. POPOVA
Mrs. POPOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) submitted the following resolution:

"The Commission on the Status of Women specially notes its desire to collaborate with the World Federation of Trade Unions and wishes to utilize the latter's experience in working out its decisions."

Miss SUTHERLAND (United Kingdom) said she was a member of the WFTU and also of the International Co-operative Alliance, which included the whole co-operative movement, and she would like to add the name of the latter body and also of the American Federation of Labor to the resolution submitted by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Miss KENYON (United States of America) supported the amendment suggested by the representative of the United Kingdom.

Mrs. POPOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) considered that as the Commission had not heard any statements by the ICA and AF of L the names of those bodies should not be included in the resolution.

Miss SUTHERLAND (United Kingdom) pointed out that the representative of the American Federation of Labor had spoken at one of the earlier meetings of the Commission and the representative of the International Co-operative Alliance had attended every meeting except the present one.

The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the amendment submitted by the representative of the United Kingdom to the resolution proposed by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

DECISION: The amendment was approved by nine votes.

The CHAIRMAN then asked the members of the Commission to vote on the resolution submitted by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

DECISION: The resolution was adopted by ten votes.

Mrs. POPOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that the representatives of the International Co-operative Alliance and the American Federation of Labor were not present at the meeting and considered that their absence showed a lack of interest in the Commission's work.

The meeting rose at 5:45 p.m.