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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN  
Twenty-fifth session  
Item 1 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE  
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

(to be held in New York from 14 January to 1 February 1974,  
the opening meeting being scheduled at 11 a.m. on  
14 January 1974)



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Annotations to the provisional agenda

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

1. Election of officers

Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council (E/4767) provides that at the commencement of its first meeting, the Commission shall elect a Chairman and one or more Vice-Chairmen, and other officers, from among its members.

2. Adoption of the agenda

In accordance with rule 5 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Chairman, has drawn up the provisional agenda for the twenty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Rule 9 of the rules of procedure provides that the first item on the provisional agenda of any session shall be the adoption of the agenda, except for the election of officers when required under rule 15.

It may be recalled that the Commission decided at its twenty-second session, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 2478 (XXIII) and Economic and Social Council resolution 1379 (XLV), to replace summary records by shorter minutes, while reserving the right to ask for summary records in respect of any item for which the Commission decided they were needed; such decision to be taken at the time of the adoption of the agenda (E/4619, para. 120).



3. International Women's Year

In resolution 3010 (XXVII) of 18 December 1972, the General Assembly proclaimed 1975 as International Women's Year and requested the Secretary-General to prepare, in consultation with Member States, specialized agencies and interested non-governmental organizations, a draft programme for International Women's Year and to submit the programme to the Commission at its twenty-fifth session.

In response to this request the Secretary-General will submit to the Commission a report containing a draft programme for the Year (E/CN.6/576).

4. International instruments and national standards relating to the status of women

(a) Implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and related instruments

In its resolution 1325 (XLIV) of 31 May 1968, the Economic and Social Council initiated a reporting system on the implementation of the Declaration. Member States, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations concerned were invited to inform the Secretary-General of the publicity given to the Declaration and of action taken by them in compliance with its principles. The Secretary-General was requested to submit reports on the information received for the consideration of the Commission at its twenty-second and subsequent sessions.

In resolution 1677 (LII) of 2 June 1972, the Council revised the above reporting system, establishing a four-year cycle for reports concerning the implementation of the Declaration, and also of certain other international instruments dealing with women's rights, on which reports had formerly been requested separately under other resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Council.

In accordance with the four-year cycle, Member States, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations continue to be invited to submit information, for the consideration of the Commission at each biennial session, on publicity given to the Declaration and on general and educational measures taken to comply with its provisions. As regards the substantive provisions of the Declaration and related instruments, however, they are now invited to submit information, for consideration at alternate sessions of the Commission, on civil and political rights, and on economic, social and cultural rights. The Secretary-General is requested to prepare analytical reports on the implementation of the Declaration and other related instruments in accordance with this cycle.

For its consideration of this item at the twenty-fifth session the Commission will have before it the following reports of the Secretary-General:

- (i) A report analysing the information received concerning the publicity given to the Declaration, the general and educational measures adopted to comply with its provisions, and the implementation of civil and

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political rights set forth in the Declaration and certain other instruments, prepared in accordance with Council resolution 1677 (LII) (E/CN.6/571);

- (ii) A report on measures taken by the United Nations to give publicity to the Declaration, prepared at the request of the Commission in its resolution 2 (XXIV) (E/CN.6/572).
- (b) Consideration of proposals concerning a new instrument or instruments of international law to eliminate discrimination against women

The Commission resolved to include the above item in the agenda of the twenty-fifth session in its resolution 5 (XXIV). At its twenty-fourth session, the Commission had before it a report of the Secretary-General (prepared at its request in resolution 4 (XXIII)), showing to what extent existing conventions contained provisions relating to rights covered by the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the measures of implementation provided and the status of ratifications and accessions (E/CN.6/552). The Commission did not, however, have enough time to study this report at its twenty-fourth session. It invited the Secretary-General (in resolution 5 (XXIV)) to call upon Member States to transmit their views or proposals concerning the nature and content of a new instrument or instruments of international law to eliminate discrimination against women and to prepare a working paper taking into account the replies of Governments. The Commission also decided in the same resolution to establish a working group, from among its membership in 1974, to meet five days before the beginning of the twenty-fifth session and begin work on the preparation of a new draft instrument or instruments in the light of the Government replies and the Secretary-General's report. The Working Group, in accordance with a decision taken by the Economic and Social Council at its 1856th meeting, on 17 May 1973, is composed of 16 members. At its 1856th and 1877th meetings, the Council elected the following 15 members to the Working Group: Canada, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Finland, Hungary, Indonesia, Liberia, Nigeria, Philippines, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Zaire. The election of the sixteenth member, to be chosen from the Asian States, was postponed until the Council's resumed session to be held from 15-18 October 1973.

The Commission will have before it for its consideration of this item:

- (i) The working paper prepared by the Secretary-General in accordance with resolution 5 (XXIV) (E/CN.6/573);
- (ii) The report of the Working Group established under the same resolution and subsequently elected by the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/574);
- (iii) The report of the Secretary-General entitled "International instruments and national standards relating to the status of women - study of provisions in existing conventions that relate to the status of women" (E/CN.6/552).



(c) Legal capacity of married women and related questions

At its twenty-first session (1968) the Commission initiated a long-term programme of study of the status of women in private law within the framework of article 6 of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women covering (a) legal capacity; (b) property rights; (c) domicile and residence; (d) dissolution of marriage and judicial separation (including the question of maintenance obligations); and (e) parental rights and duties.

At its twenty-fourth session, the Commission approved the draft outline of the study on the legal capacity of married women contained in the preliminary report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/563). It will have before it at its twenty-fifth session a further report on the subject (E/CN.6/584).

(d) Communications concerning the status of women

At its twenty-fourth session, the Commission decided to include communications concerning the status of women in its future work programme on the basis of Economic and Social Council resolution 76 (V), as amended by resolution 304 I (XI) (E/5109, para. 90 (c)). In accordance with these resolutions the Commission will have before it two lists of communications as follows:

- (i) A non-confidential list containing a brief summary of communications which deal with the principles relating to the promotion of women's rights in the political, economic, civil, social and educational fields (E/CN.6/CR.24);
- (ii) A confidential list of other communications concerning the status of women (S.W. Communications List No. 18).

5. Study on the interrelationship of the status of women and family planning

The Commission will have before it the study on the interrelationship of the status of women and family planning, which was prepared in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 1326 (XLIV) and Commission resolutions 7 (XXIII) and 6 (XXIV) (E/CN.6/575). In initiating the study in 1968, the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission, appointed as Special Rapporteur for the study, Mrs. Helvi Sipilä of Finland.

In addition to the study itself, the Commission will have before it the reports of the following seminars on the subject of the status of women and family planning: (i) Interregional Seminar on the Status of Women and Family Planning, held in Turkey in July 1972 (ST/TAO/HR/46); (ii) Regional Seminar on the Status of Women and Family Planning for Countries of the Western Hemisphere, held in the Dominican Republic in May 1973 (ESA/SDHA/AC.1/26); (iii) Regional Seminar on the Status of Women and Family Planning for Countries within the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East Region, held in Indonesia in June 1973 (ESA/SDHA/AC.2/21).



6. Programme of concerted international action to promote the advancement of women and their integration in development

(a) Implementation of a programme of concerted action

In resolution 2716 (XXV) of 15 December 1970, the General Assembly made a number of recommendations concerning a programme of concerted international action for the advancement of women, including certain general objectives and targets to be achieved during the Second United Nations Development Decade. At the same session, the General Assembly adopted the International Development Strategy for the Decade in resolution 2626 (XXV) and included among the goals and objectives of the Decade, the encouragement of "the full integration of women in the total development effort".

In accordance with these two resolutions, the Secretary-General convened in June 1972 the Interregional Meeting of Experts on the Integration of Women in Development "to advise on broad policy measures regarding women's role in economic and social development". The Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1683 (LII) of 2 June 1972, requested the Secretary-General to submit the report of the meeting to the Commission on the Status of Women as well as to the Commission for Social Development.

For its consideration of this item the Commission will have before it:

- (i) A note by the Secretary-General outlining developments relating to General Assembly resolution 2716 (XXV), and taking into account relevant Economic and Social Council resolutions (E/CN.6/577);
- (ii) A report of the Secretary-General on the integration of women in development (E/CN.5/481) summarizing the report of the Interregional Meeting of Experts on this question. The full report is contained in document ST/SOA/120;
- (iii) The report of the Secretary-General entitled Participation of Women in Community Development (Sales No. 72.IV.8), prepared at the request of the Commission in resolution 8 (XXII).

(b) Status of rural women, especially agricultural workers

In resolution 14 (XXIV), the Commission decided to include the above item in its programme of work, "with a view to studying the ways and means by which women in rural areas can be helped to achieve their maximum potential, not only as wives and mothers but also as citizens and full participants in the development of their countries".

The Commission also requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Member States and the specialized agencies concerned, in particular the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization



and the World Health Organization, and also the United Nations Children's Fund, to furnish the Commission with available information on the status of women in rural areas, particularly agricultural workers, for its consideration in 1974. A progress report, based on this request, will be submitted to the Commission (E/CN.6/583).

The Commission will also have before it a report by UNESCO on equality of access of girls and women to education in the context of rural development based on a request of the Commission in its resolution 12 (XX) of 1967 (E/CN.6/566/Rev.1).

(c) Technical co-operation activities for the advancement of women

The Secretary-General will submit to the Commission a report on activities undertaken under the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, covering the period 1972-1973, prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 926 (X) (E/CN.6/569 and 578). The Secretary-General will also bring to the attention of the Commission information concerning relevant activities undertaken under other technical co-operation programmes that may be of interest.

The Commission will also have before it the report of the Interregional Seminar on the Family in a Changing Society: Problems and Responsibilities of its Members, held in London, England, from 18-31 July 1973 (ESA/SDHA/AC.3/12). (For reports of other seminars organized during 1972-1973, see under item 6.)

(d) Activities of the specialized agencies to promote the advancement of women

The Commission will have before it:

- (i) A report by the ILO on its activities of special interest in relation to the employment of women, prepared in accordance with resolution 821 IV B (XXXII) of the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/579);
  - (ii) A report by UNESCO on its activities during the period 1971-1973 of special interest to women, prepared in pursuance of resolution 154 F (VII) of the Council (E/CN.6/580).
- (e) Co-operation with intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system

In accordance with paragraph 7 of resolution 48 (IV) of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission will have before it:

- (i) A report of the Inter-American Commission of Women on its activities (E/CN.6/582);
- (ii) Report of the Arab Women's Commission on its activities (E/CN.6/589).

7. Influence of mass communication media on the formation of a new attitude towards the role of women in present-day society

In resolution 1 (XXIV), the Commission resolved to include the above item in the agenda of its twenty-fifth session. It requested the Secretary-General to



invite States Members of the United Nations and interested non-governmental organizations to comment on the subject along with any other relevant information, and to prepare a report on such comments for submission to the Commission at its twenty-fifth session. The Secretary-General will submit a report to the Commission in response to this request (E/CN.6/581).

8. Protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence

The Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1687 (LII) of 2 June 1972, decided to include the above question in the Commission's programme of work.

In paragraph 5 of resolution 1687 (LII), the Council requested Governments of Member States, the United Nations organs, the specialized agencies and the non-governmental organizations to mobilize world public opinion in support of women and children referred to in the Secretary-General's report on the protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence (E/CN.6/561 and Add.1 and 2) and in the discussions of the Commission on the Status of Women, and requested these bodies and the International Committee of the Red Cross to develop ways and means of rendering all possible humanitarian support to them and to inform the Secretary-General of the steps taken in this respect. The Council requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report for the Commission on the Status of Women based on the replies received.

In paragraph 7 of resolution 1687 (LII) the Council further requested the Secretary-General to prepare and submit to the Commission, every second session, reports on the condition of women and children in emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence based on information available from appropriate United Nations bodies, in official United Nations documents, and any other information furnished by Governments and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council.

The Secretary-General will submit a report to the Commission, based on the above requests (E/CN.6/586).

9. Exploitation of labour through illicit and clandestine trafficking

In its resolution 1789 (LIV) of 18 May 1973, the Economic and Social Council requested the Commission to examine the question of the exploitation of victims of clandestine traffic in labour, especially young women, taking into account in this connexion the discussion in the Commission on Human Rights, and to report to the Council.

The Commission will have before it a note by the Secretary-General describing relevant developments in various United Nations organs, including the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (E/CN.6/590).





10. Work Programme and Medium-term Plan

Following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 3043 (XXVII) on the form of presentation of the United Nations budget and duration of the budget cycle, the Commission will be called upon to consider, for the first time, the work programme under the new programme budget procedures which call for a two-year programme budget within the framework of a four-year medium-term plan.

The Commission's attention will be invited to the programme budget 1974-1975 and medium-term plan for 1974-1977 contained in document A/9006/Add.1 (part I). The relevant comments of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions will be made available.

The Commission will have before it a report of the Secretary-General describing the detailed work programme to be undertaken in 1974-1975 under the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (E/CN.6/588).

The Commission will also have before it proposals for medium-term objectives for the work of the United Nations in the field of the promotion of equality of men and women during the plan period 1976-1979, and will be required to review and make appropriate recommendations to the Economic and Social Council on these objectives, in accordance with the decision of the Council at its 1850th meeting on 10 January 1973. By that decision, the Council instructed its functional commissions and standing committees to state their programme objectives so that the Secretary-General can examine and elaborate the most effective and economical means of achieving the objectives in question, and make appropriate recommendations in the biennial programme and budget and the medium-term plan.

11. Report of the Commission on its twenty-fifth session

In accordance with rule 38 of the rules of procedure, the Commission shall report to the Council on the work of each session.

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