

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.6/494
26 January 1968

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Twenty-first session
Item 6 (c) of the provisional agenda

NATIONAL COMMISSIONS ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Report by the Secretary-General



1. The Commission on the Status of Women, in resolution 14 (XX) adopted at its twentieth session in 1967, noted that in recent years, several Governments had set up national commissions on the status of women or similar bodies, and expressed the belief that an exchange of information and experience regarding the composition, organization and functions of such commissions or bodies might be useful for Governments contemplating their establishment in the future. In the same resolution, the Commission requested the Secretary-General "to address an inquiry to Member States to ascertain the number of national commissions on the status of women or similar bodies that currently exist, the functions they perform and their relationship to non-governmental organizations, and to prepare a report based on the replies received, if possible for the twenty-first session of the Commission.^{1/}
2. The Secretary-General accordingly addressed an inquiry to Member States to furnish him with any information relating to national commissions on the status of women considered pertinent to the resolution cited above.
3. The Commission on the Status of Women will also recall that in resolution 961 F (XXXVI) of 12 July 1963 the Economic and Social Council called the attention of Member States of the United Nations to the "value of appointing national commissions on the status of women composed of leading men and women with experience in government service, education, employment, community development

^{1/} Economic and Social Council, Official Records, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 7 (E/4316, para. 357).

and other aspects of public life to develop plans and make recommendations for improving the position of women in their respective countries".^{2/}

4. Replies to the Secretary-General's inquiry have been received from the following Governments: Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, Iran, Italy, Japan, Laos, Libya, Luxembourg, Malta, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Singapore, Somalia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Yugoslavia, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and United States of America.
5. From the replies received it may be noted that national commissions or similar bodies have been established as specific governmental organs to deal with matters relating to the status of women and their advancement in Afghanistan, China, Denmark, Poland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America. In addition, in certain countries (Argentina, Australia, Austria, Canada, Japan, Libya, Norway, and United States of America), special governmental departments, or sections within a department have been created either to accomplish similar results to those aimed at by the national commissions of other countries, or to study and deal with certain problems affecting women, particularly, employment, conditions of work and educational opportunities.
6. Activities aimed at the improvement and advancement of the status of women are also being carried out in a number of countries by social, political or non-governmental organizations, private associations or even independent women's committees such as in Austria, Canada, Iran, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, New Zealand, Somalia, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Yugoslavia. It has also been reported that the Trade Union Organizations of Austria, Italy and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, among others, have separate women's sections within the organization, particularly concerned with the special problems of working women.
7. Finally, from a number of replies it may be noted that several Governments are interested in the establishment of national commissions on the status of women or similar bodies which, at the national level, would deal with the status

^{2/} Economic and Social Council, Official Records, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 1 (E/3816)

of women and their advancement. The question of the establishment of such official organs is being considered and/or plans are being made to this effect in Australia, Finland, Italy, Laos, Libya, Luxembourg, Norway, Singapore and Swaziland.

8. The addendum to the present report contains a summary of the replies received from the Governments listed in paragraph 4 above.



Fundação Cuidar o Futuro