

UNITED NATIONS  NATIONS UNIES

NEW YORK

CABLE ADDRESS · UNATIONS NEWYORK · ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE

31 August 1962

FILE NO.: SO 241 (5)

Dear Sirs,

At its thirty-fourth session, following its consideration of the report of the sixteenth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Economic and Social Council adopted the following resolution on the subject of equal pay for equal work (resolution 884 II (XXXIV)):

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Having examined the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its sixteenth session,

"Sharing its opinion that the legal and factual inequality between men and women in questions concerning wages and salaries, still existing in many countries, constitutes a serious obstacle to the achievement of real equality of men and women in the economic field, and that effective measures on national and international levels should be taken to remove this discrimination against women,

"Emphasizing in this connexion particularly the responsibilities of Governments for the removal of discrimination against women in the question of wages and salaries and for the consistent application of the principle of equal pay for equal work,

"1. Calls upon:

"(a) Governments of Member States which have not yet ratified or otherwise implemented the principles of Convention No. 100 of the International Labour Organisation concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value to do so, as appropriate under the Constitution of the ILO, and also to implement the provisions of ILO Recommendation No. 90 and, by the adoption of the relevant legislative and practical measures in all economic fields, to apply and promote consistently the principle of equal pay for equal work in accordance with the said convention;

"(b) The International Labour Organisation to continue to follow the introduction of the principle of equal pay for equal work on a world scale and to bear this principle always in mind in considering working and social questions on an international level;

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"2. Expresses the hope that national and international non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council may continue to advocate consistently in their activities the principle of equal economic working conditions for men and women and demand the legislative and practical application of the principle of equal pay for equal work;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to submit, in co-operation with the International Labour Office, a report to the eighteenth session of the Commission on the Status of Women on both the progress achieved in the field of equal pay for equal work, and obstacles existing so far in this field."

May I draw your attention to the wish expressed in operative paragraph 2 of this resolution.

The Council also adopted resolution 884 III (XXXIV) on the subject of access of girls and women to elementary education. Operative paragraph 3 makes reference to the collaboration of non-governmental organizations. The text of the resolution is as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Having considered the report by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the access of girls to elementary education (E/CN.3/196 and Corr.1 and 2), and considering that almost half the children of school age in the world do not receive school education and that the number of girls who attend school is even less than that of boys,

"Bearing in mind that education will help women to take their proper place in the cultural, social and economic life of their country,

"Recalling its resolution 652 C (XXIV) of 24 July 1957 and 821 V-B (XXXII) of 19 July 1961 and General Assembly resolutions 1677 (XVI) of 18 December 1961 and 1717 (XVI) of 19 December 1961, in which first importance is attached to the problem of education and the elimination of illiteracy,

"Noting with satisfaction the results of the regional conferences on the development of education,

"1. Recommends States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies:

"(a) To take into account where necessary in their plans the need to expand elementary education, which must be universal, compulsory and free for children of both sexes;

"(b) To ensure that both sexes have equal rights and facilities for receiving elementary education, taking advantage of new techniques where these can be helpful;

"(c) To take the necessary steps to increase the attendance in elementary schools, especially by girls;





"(d) To take steps to develop education for the adults who have not received elementary education, especially for women;

"(e) To consider the conclusions and recommendations of the regional conferences on the development of education with a view to their gradual implementation;

"(f) To implement fully the provisions of the UNESCO Convention and Recommendation against Discrimination in Education;

"2. Expresses the hope that UNESCO will give high importance, in its work on educational development, to the extension of elementary education to all girls, and to those adult women who have not received elementary education;

"3. Recommends that non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, and in particular women's non-governmental organizations give all possible collaboration in the development of education, including the utilization, so far as necessary and appropriate, of voluntary aid and local materials."

Resolution 884 V (XXXIV) adopted by the Council deals with the United Nations assistance for the advancement of women in developing countries, and in its operative paragraph 4 urges non-governmental women's organizations in consultative status to co-operate with the Secretary-General by various means outlined in that paragraph. The resolution reads as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Having considered the reports by the Secretary-General on United Nations assistance for the advancement of women in developing countries (E/3493 and Corr.1 and 2 and E/3566 and Corr.1 - E/CN.6/395 and Corr.1) prepared in accordance with its resolution 771 H (XXX) of 25 July 1960, and the views expressed in the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixteenth session,

"Recalling General Assembly resolution 1509 (XV) of 12 December 1960 in which the Commission on the Status of Women and the Council were invited to pursue their efforts in advancing the status of women in developing countries and to take appropriate measures that would lead to special assistance by the United Nations and the specialized agencies in this regard,

"Noting with satisfaction General Assembly resolution 1679 (XVI) of 18 December 1961 in which the Assembly decided to increase the resources of the advisory services programme in human rights in order to permit the provision of a number of human rights fellowships each year, in addition to the seminars,

"Considering that under the United Nations Development Decade it is now appropriate to develop and co-ordinate the various programmes of the United Nations, of the specialized agencies and of the United Nations Children's Fund designed to advance the status of women in developing countries,





"Believing that, in order to achieve this goal, the co-operation of the Governments, the specialized agencies and the United Nations Children's Fund, and of non-governmental organizations in consultative status is indispensable,

"1. Recommends to Governments of States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies that they make full use, for the purpose of promoting and advancing the status of women in developing countries, of the services presently available under the regular programme and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, as well as of the advisory services programme in human rights and the advisory social welfare services, by requesting the advisory services of experts, by promoting the attendance at seminars and other meetings, and by taking advantage of the availability of fellowships and scholarships;

"2. Invites the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, in co-operation with the United Nations, to strengthen and to expand their programmes designed to meet the needs of women in developing countries, and to seek new methods to achieve this purpose;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General:

"(a) To direct his attention, when planning the various United Nations programmes of assistance, to the needs of women in developing countries and to include, in these programmes, projects especially directed to meet such needs;

"(b) To continue to utilize the available resources of the United Nations to advance the condition of women in the developing countries, by holding seminars dealing with the status of women, by providing experts on women's rights at the request of Governments and by offering human rights fellowships and scholarships to persons concerned with the status of women, and to make available to Governments, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations in consultative status, all information concerning the facilities available for the advancement of women;

"4. Urges non-governmental women's organizations in consultative status to co-operate with the Secretary-General, by stimulating public opinion with regard to the programmes of the United Nations which contribute to the advancement of women and by supplementing the efforts of the United Nations on the international and national levels through the holding of regional, national or local seminars, including if possible in the future an international seminar, the provision of fellowships, scholarships and expert advice, and other related activities."





The Commission on the Status of Women at its sixteenth session adopted a resolution on vocational guidance and training of girls and women (resolution 6 (XVI)) in the following terms:

"The Commission on the Status of Women,

"Recalling its resolution 6 (XIV) and Economic and Social Council resolution 771 E (XXX) of 25 July 1960 and desiring to take additional measures,

"Recognizing that the vocational training of women and the raising of the level of their qualifications are necessary prerequisites for their practical equality with men in the economic field,

"Noting that the urgent need for qualified personnel in developing countries may be satisfied only by training both women and men,

"Considering that women in many countries perform mainly unskilled or less skilled work,

"1. Expresses the hope that the competent authorities will:

"(a) Consider how to improve effectively the vocational guidance and counselling as well as the vocational and technical training of women and girls, and achieve free educational facilities in that field;

"(b) Ensure to men and women equal access to existing vocational and professional schools and other facilities;

"(c) Establish new centres, where necessary, for equal vocational guidance and counselling as well as vocational and professional training of men and women;

"(d) Encourage on-the-job vocational training of women in industrial and other establishments;

"2. Recommends that the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the International Labour Office, report to the Commission, if possible at its eighteenth session, on the progress made by States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies in implementing the recommendations made in operative paragraph 1;

"3. Expresses the hope that the ILO Panel of Consultants on the Problems of Women Workers will examine the problem of vocational guidance and counselling as well as the vocational and technical training at its next session, and also that the International Labour Organisation would find it possible to include thereafter in the agenda of an early session of its General Conference the problem of vocational guidance and counselling as well as the vocational and technical training of women and girls;

"4. Expresses also the hope that non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council will develop facilities for assisting, as appropriate, the vocational guidance and counselling as well as the vocational and technical training of women and girls."





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You will note that operative paragraph 4 expresses the hope that non-governmental organizations will develop facilities for furthering the work in this area.

The value which the Council and the Commission place on the work of non-governmental organizations in consultative status is emphasized by the co-operation and assistance sought in these various resolutions. Both at the thirty-fourth session of the Council and at the sixteenth session of the Commission, frequent reference was made to the valuable help afforded by these organizations. May I take this opportunity, on behalf of myself and the members of this Section, of conveying our thanks for your generous co-operation in the past and our hope for a continuation of this fruitful relationship in the future.

Yours sincerely,

S. Grinberg-Vinaver

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Chief
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Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

