

At its eighth session, the Commission was under instructions from the General Assembly to prepare two draft covenants and suitable measures of implementation, the first draft covenant to formulate civil and political rights, the second economic, social and cultural rights. Again, the Commission had insufficient time to complete the task set it. The substantive articles, setting forth the rights themselves, were drafted for both covenants but the measures for implementation were left untouched. Once more, the Commission was unable to deal with the federal state clause. The Commission has asked to be allowed to convene a further meeting (or possibly two meetings) in 1953 to carry on with its work.⁴

Commission on the Status of Women

This Commission, on which Canada is not represented, held its fifth session at Lake Success from April 30 to May 14, 1951, and its sixth session in Geneva from March 24 to April 5, 1952.

The Commission at its fifth session drafted a convention for submission to the Economic and Social Council on the political rights of women. The Council deferred any decision until the views of member governments had been received. The Commission's sixth session, in possession of these views, amended the draft convention slightly and submitted it once more to the Council for action.

The fifth session recommended the distribution of a pamphlet prepared by the Secretary-General on education of women for public life. It also recommended that women should be appointed as members of visiting missions to trusteeship territories.⁵ Another resolution requested the International Law Commission to complete during 1952 the drafting of a convention on the nationality of married women. The status of women in public law was the subject of another resolution. The final paragraph of this resolution expressed the hope that member states would take steps to remove all discrimination in connection with the employment of married women in public service. The final resolution urged member states, not members of the International Labour Organization (ILO) which already has a convention on this subject, to give effect to the principle of equal pay for equal work without discrimination on grounds of sex.

At the sixth session, the Commission recognized that in some trust and non-self-governing territories women were deprived of some human rights. The Trusteeship Council was invited to take appropriate action to improve the situation. A resolution sought to ensure for women the right to work on an equal footing with men and to guarantee women and girls equal access to vocational training and apprenticeship. Once again, great emphasis was placed on the question of equal pay for equal work and governments were urged to introduce legislation to implement the ILO Convention on this subject. Other resolutions dealt with the problems of older women workers and with part-time jobs for women.

⁴See also pp. 70-74.

⁵See pp. 120-121.