

External Affairs
Supplementary Paper

No. 53/76

Technical Assistance
in Safeguarding the Rights of Women

Text of a statement made on September 25, 1953 by Mrs. A.L. Caldwell, Canadian representative, in the Third Committee of the eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, on agenda item 62 - Technical assistance in promoting and safeguarding the rights of women

Note - The text of the resolution adopted by the General Assembly and the results of the voting are included at the end of the statement.

The Canadian Government not only recognizes the importance of the various schemes of technical assistance provided under the United Nations, but has contributed, and will continue to contribute, in many ways, to their practical implementation. My country is also fully aware of the importance of taking steps to implement Article 1(3) of the Charter of the United Nations with a view to achieving international co-operation by promoting and encouraging respect for fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of race, sex, language, or religion. Canada took an early lead in giving women political rights and women may participate fully in the social and political activities of the nation. With the aims and objects of the resolution now before this Committee, we are therefore in full accord.

My delegation views with sympathy the reservations made by the representatives of the Netherlands, France, the United Kingdom and others. It also shares some of the apprehensions expressed by other delegations as to how the need for a Technical Assistance programme in this field should be met, and as to its financial implications. Let me say that I for one am particularly interested in making sure that whatever is done here will be of a practical nature rather than only a statement of principle: and that is why I would have liked the resolution put forward by the distinguished representative of the Dominican Republic to be more specific. However, the explanation provided by the Secretary-General's Office contains some clarification which, while not fully answering our doubts, makes it possible for us to support the resolution. It is my delegation's understanding that this programme of technical assistance in promoting and safeguarding the rights of women will not for the first year, that is, 1954, require additional budget provisions, but that any requests for such assistance from member states will be met within the budget allocations of the United Nations. It is also our understanding that the priority for requests for technical assistance in relation to the status of women will be decided within the framework of the Technical Assistance Programme, and will be judged on their own merits.

The Canadian Delegation would be very sorry if the Secretary-General were unable to meet any specific request for a sensible and sound project in the field because it