

ment which had the effect of directing the recommendations to the Secretary-General rather than to ECOSOC. The amendment was accepted by the sponsors and the amended resolution was adopted unanimously.

The related subjects of the programme of concerted practical action in the social field, the review of the world social situation, and the long-range programme for the promotion of community development will be considered in detail at the twenty-fourth session of the Economic and Social Council in 1957.

### **Commission on the Status of Women**

The Commission on the Status of Women, whose function is to prepare recommendations and reports for the Economic and Social Council on women's rights in the political, economic, social, civil and educational spheres, held its tenth session in Geneva from March 12-29, 1956. The main matters discussed were: political rights of women, access of women to education, equal pay for equal work, economic opportunities for women, nationality of married women, status of women in private law, technical assistance programmes in relation to the status of women, and participation of women in the work of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies.

Several resolutions were adopted at the March 1956 meeting of the Commission looking towards the investigation and removal of discrimination against women particularly in educational and economic spheres. The Secretary-General was requested to prepare a report on the practices of polygamy, child marriage and bride-price, and the right of a mother to exercise parental authority and to have custody and guardianship of the children during marriage and after its dissolution. The Commission also recommended that thought be given to the possibility of holding regional seminars to assist women who have recently acquired political rights or do not yet fully exercise them, in order to develop their understanding of civic responsibilities and increase their participation in the public life of their countries. In conformity with this recommendation, the United Nations Secretary-General has suggested that a seminar on the political rights of women be held in Bangkok in August 1957 for women from Asian countries.

Canada has recently submitted its candidature for membership of the Commission on the Status of Women in anticipation of the elections which will be held for ECOSOC functional commissions in April-May 1957<sup>1</sup>. On January 29, 1957 Canada acceded to the United Nations Convention on the Political Rights of Women which provides that women shall be entitled to vote and be eligible for election and be entitled to hold public office on equal terms with men. The Commission on the Status of Women held its eleventh session in New York from March 18 to April 5, 1957.

### **Human Rights Commission**

The Commission on Human Rights, on which Canada is not represented, held its twelfth session at United Nations Headquarters in New York in March 1956, and passed a number of resolutions which were forwarded to ECOSOC for consideration. The questions giving rise to these resolutions were grouped together under one item on the agenda of the Commission

<sup>1</sup>On May 3, 1957 Canada was elected for a three-year term on the Status of Women Commission.