

The report of the eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (March 22 - April 9, 1954) submitted to ECOSOC a number of resolutions calling for further efforts to establish acceptance of women's role in public life, to secure equal pay for equal work, equal educational opportunities and an equal chance to hold senior posts in the United Nations. The Commission also recommended that a provision concerning the equal marital rights of men and women in the draft Covenant on Civil and Political Rights should be redrafted by the Commission on Human Rights and recommended that the revised text of the proposed Convention on the Nationality of Married Women should be circulated anew to member governments for comment. At the time of writing the Council had not yet discussed the Commission's report.

Statistical Commission

The Statistical Commission held its eighth session in New York April 5 - 22, 1954.¹ The Canadian member is Mr. Herbert Marshall, the Dominion Statistician. There was an agenda containing 17 substantive items, most of which entailed the discussion of papers or memoranda, prepared by the Secretary-General or others, dealing with methods and procedures for improving the accuracy and international comparability of many different types of statistics. As a result of its review, the Commission made a number of suggestions and recommendations, chiefly to the Secretary-General, as to how the work should be pursued.

The Commission noted that the Standard International Trade Classification is now used by 32 countries accounting for almost 70 per cent of world trade and that over 20 more are arranging to use it soon. The definition of "transaction value" for use in external trade statistics recommended by the Commission and approved by the Economic and Social Council appears likely to be generally adopted, as regards items where practicable, otherwise by overall totals. The Commission recommended that member governments provide periodically in their external trade statistics their legal definitions of value and also descriptions of the methods of valuation used in practice. It was also recommended that they record statistics of fish landed from the original craft, bunkers and stores for foreign vessels and vehicles, and new ships and aircraft. Secondhand ships and aircraft would be registered separately. The Secretary-General was asked to revise the existing summary of official definitions of customs areas and to obtain the views of member governments on his revision and on methods for making periodic checks of the reliability of indices of quantum and unit value.

The Commission suggested continued co-operation by the Secretary-General with the International Chamber of Commerce in studies of distribution censuses and statistics of wholesale and retail trade; with UNESCO on improving international comparability of education and illiteracy statistics; with the International Statistical Institute, the Inter-American Statistical Institute, UNESCO and other interested Specialized Agencies in preparing a report on the

¹See *Canada and the United Nations 1952-53*, p. 51.