



WILPF RESOLUTIONS

11th Congress
Copenhagen
August 15th – 19th, 1949

A) Passed at Congress

I Women in the United Nations

The XIth International Congress of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, assembled at Copenhagen from August 15-19, 1949,

Having considered the report of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedoms Consultant at the United Nations,

Draws the attention of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom national Sections to the fact that at the Ninth Session (July/August 1949) of the Economic and Social Council, as in previous sessions, a very small number of women was included in the delegations of the eighteen governments which form the Economic and Social Council.

This fact led to the situation that also at the meetings of the Social Committee, when the report of the Third Session of the Commission on the Status of Women was discussed, only two governments were represented by women alternate delegates: the Government of India and that of Poland.

This Congress appeals to all Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Sections in member States of the United Nations to cooperate with other women's organizations in approaching their governments in a special effort to have more women delegates to take a leading part in the discussions of questions concerning the Status of Women.

This appeal does not imply, however, that the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom believes that women ought not to take their full share in shaping United Nations policies on all other questions concerning the political, economic and social life of their countries. On the contrary, we hold that only complete cooperation of men and women as full equals in shaping and making decisions in the United Nations will bring about the fulfillment of the aims and principles laid down in the United Nations Charter.

II The Economic and Social Council as an Instrument of International Cooperation

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Concerned over the tendency of members of the Economic and Social Council to consider questions under discussion in terms of the particular conditions and interests of the eighteen countries they represent rather than on a level of broad international policy, appeals to members of the Economic and Social Council to be continuously conscious of and act in accordance with the fact that the framers of the Charter had intended the United Nations to be “a center for harmonizing the actions of nations” (Art. 1,4) and that delegates on the Economic and Social Council were visualized as a means for giving voice to whatever is essential for the well-being of ALL the peoples in the United Nations.

III Stateless people - Termination of International Refugee Organization

The XIth International Congress of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, assembled at Copenhagen from August 15-19, 1949,

Expresses its profound anxiety over the decision made by the General Council of the International Refugee Organization of June 30, 1950.

In view of the distressing fact that there will still be in various parts of the world, mainly in Europe, and more specially in Germany, large numbers of refugees at present under the International Refugee Organization's mandate who are stateless and will not enjoy governmental protection,

This Congress urges speedy action on the following proposals:

1. That the international protection, legal and political, of refugees should continue without break;
2. That the Office of a High Commissioner be established within the framework of the United Nations entrusted with this responsibility;
3. That an international fund be established to be administered by the High Commissioner for the purpose of granting material assistance to refugees after June 30, 1950;
4. That Governments be urged to adopt the most liberal immigration policies so as to enable the International Refugee Organization to complete its tasks to the fullest degree possible and to give homes and citizenship to those who are stateless.

To National Sections of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom this Congress appeals to impress upon their Governments their grave concern and the very great seriousness of the situation which is bound to arise, unless far reaching arrangements are made NOW to cope with the human problems of the most miserable of the miserable victims of persecution and war.

While making this appeal for immediate measures, this Congress is fully aware of the fact that such measures would be mere palliatives unless the fundamental problems of Statelessness, neglected for so long, receive early concentrated attention and urges prompt action by the United Nations organs concerned for the elimination of Statelessness at its source. Such action alone will permanently remove a situation which has long been a shame of civilization.

IV Non Governmental Organizations and the United Nations

The XIth International Congress of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, assembled at Copenhagen from August 15-19, 1949,

Appreciating the efforts on the part of the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies to implement Art. 71 of the United Nations Charter by making more articulate the voice of the peoples in the countries represented in the various organs and Specialized Agencies of the United Nations,

Expresses the hope that Non Governmental Organizations will be given increasing facilities to make the best use of the privileges granted them and to enable them to make their full contribution to promote the great cause of the United Nations.

V Franco Spain

The XIth International Congress of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, assembled at Copenhagen from August 15-19, 1949,

Having followed the discussions on Franco Spain at the Third Session (2nd part) of the General Assembly of the United Nations with very great concern,

Having considered the fact that conditions in Franco Spain have not improved since 1946,

Call upon national Sections of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom to urge their governments loyally to uphold the letter and the spirit of the Resolution on Franco Spain adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 12, 1946.

To the people of Spain this Congress expresses its profound sympathy and hope that a democratic Spain will soon be welcomed to membership in the United Nations and all its organs.

VI Viet Nam

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Considering:

That all colonial powers have promised to guide and orientate gradually the indigenous population towards political independence,

That several such territories, among others the Viet Nam, have arrived at a self-governing state and now request such independence,

Considering also that no prejudice of color, no idea of so-called superiority of the white race should be taken into account, shall place these territories under the administration of the Trusteeship Council for a limited period of five to ten years, during which time they should gain their complete independence.

Such a policy by member States should put an end to the recent practice of making and reversing decisions regarding Non Self Governing peoples in deference to the wishes of colonial powers.

XI Disarmament

The XIth International Congress of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, assembled at Copenhagen from August 15-19, 1949,

Reaffirms its opposition to all forms of warfare.

Believing that military preparedness tends to lull the nations into a sense of false security, since there is no real defense against modern weapons of war, while prejudicing the atmosphere of reconciliation which is a necessary condition for the settlement of disputes, urges the nations cooperating through the United Nations:

a) to continue to seek agreement of outstanding problems around the conference table;

b) to advocate in the United Nations, as the only real safeguard of security, the systematic reduction of armaments in all member States, as proposed in the General Assembly, December 1946. As a first step toward this end, the Congress recommends that all nations join in demanding that the consideration of disarmament be placed high on the agenda of the next session of the United Nations General Assembly Meeting, September 30, 1949, or, failing this, that a special session of the General Assembly be called to consider this plan;

c) To consider sympathetically and seriously any proposal along these lines put forward from any source;

d) To make persistent efforts to achieve the necessary minimum of agreement for control of the use of atomic energy, and the secure the prohibition of the preparation of all means of mass devastation, including atomic and biological weapons, together with the destruction of all existing stocks;

e) To secure the establishment of a Permanent Board of Mediation of the United Nations to operate in all disputes between member States, including all those about the program of general disarmament;

f) To urge the speedy establishment of a voluntary constabulary under the United Nations control and not composed of national units;

g) To overcome fear by extended functional cooperation and so to achieve the peace which the people of the world desire.

B) Passed by the Executive Committee

I Relations with Other International Organizations

The International Executive Committee of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, assembled at Copenhagen, August 20/21, 1949, declares:

a) That the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom maintains its policy of not affiliating with any other international organization. This is not intended to apply to national or international coordinating organizations.

b) National Sections, while not affiliating, are at liberty to cooperate to the fullest possible extent with such other organizations as are working in harmony with their aims.

II United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

The International Executive Committee of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, assembled at Copenhagen, August 20/21, 1949,

Warmly commends the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund for its distribution of vital supplies to children, guided by only one consideration, the children's urgent need.

Endorsing the former principle of giving priority to the child victims of aggression, we are gratified to note the extension of the program of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund into countries of Latin America, the Near East and the Far East.

Commending particularly the addition of child health to the program of the UN's International Children's Emergency Fund through its close cooperation with the World Health Organization, we urge that the cooperation, counsel and services of other Specialized Agencies of the United Nations be utilized in building an overall program for children.

Cognizant of the resolutions of the Third General Assembly which asked governments to make further contributions to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund and peoples to conduct a Second United Nations Appeal for Children, we urge:

I) That consideration be given to the successful money raising activities of volunteer groups in more than forty countries participating in the First Appeal, and

II) That the further cooperation of these groups be secured by including at the earliest possible date all these countries in the benefits of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund distribution.

We further recommend that a more unified children's agency be developed within the United Nations, working as a permanent fund, not an emergency fund, supported by the appropriations of the Governments of the member nations, volunteer organizations and individuals throughout the world and administered for the world's children.