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**SOME RECENT RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY UNITED NATIONS
ORGANS WHICH SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION
OF THE COMMISSION**

Note by the secretariat

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At the fifty-first and fifty-second sessions of the United Nations General Assembly and the substantive session of 1997 of the Economic and Social Council, the States Members of the United Nations adopted a number of resolutions which are of particular interest to the regional commissions. The ECLAC secretariat considers it appropriate to bring a number of these resolutions to the attention of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its twenty-sixth session.

1. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States (General Assembly resolution 51/4)

The full text of General Assembly resolution 51/4, adopted on 24 October 1996, is reproduced in annex 1.

In this resolution, the General Assembly expressed its satisfaction at the close cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States and emphasized that that cooperation should be conducted in accordance with their respective mandates, competence and composition and recommended continuing with the modality of operating through the focal points already established.

The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to report, at its fifty-third session, on the implementation of this resolution.

2. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (General Assembly resolution 51/69)

The full text of resolution 51/69, adopted by the General Assembly on 12 December 1996, is reproduced in annex 2.

In this resolution, the General Assembly once again called upon States, the United Nations system and all other actors to implement the Platform for Action, in particular, by promoting an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in the design, monitoring and evaluation of all policies, as appropriate, in order to ensure effective implementation of the Platform.

Moreover, the General Assembly recognized the importance attached to the regional monitoring of the global and regional platforms for action by regional commissions and other subregional or regional structures, within their mandates, in consultation with Governments, and the necessity of promoting cooperation among national Governments of the same region in this respect.

It also requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-second session and thereafter annually, through the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council, on ways to enhance the capacity of the Organization and of the United Nations system to support the ongoing follow-up to the Conference.

3. Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (General Assembly resolution 51/176)

The full text of General Assembly resolution 51/176, adopted on 16 December 1996, is reproduced in annex 3.

In this resolution, the General Assembly acknowledged fully the integrated approach taken during the International Conference on Population and Development, which recognized the interrelationship between population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

Furthermore, it reiterated that Governments should continue to commit themselves at the highest political level to the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Conference and requested the Economic and Social Council to continue to give guidance on matters concerning coordination within the United Nations system regarding the implementation of the Programme of Action.

Lastly, the Secretary-General was requested to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of this resolution.

4. Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (General Assembly resolution 51/183)

The full text of General Assembly resolution 51/183, adopted on 16 December 1996, is reproduced in annex 4.

In this resolution, the General Assembly reaffirmed that, because the development options of small island developing States were limited, there were special challenges to devising and implementing sustainable development plans and those States would be constrained in meeting such challenges and overcoming obstacles to sustainable development without the active support and cooperation of the international community.

In addition, the General Assembly welcomed the work being done by the regional commissions to support activities to coordinate the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

5. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System (General Assembly resolution 52/3)

The full text of General Assembly resolution 52/3, adopted on 22 October 1997, is reproduced in annex 5.

In this resolution, the General Assembly urged the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to continue broadening and deepening its coordination and mutual support activities with the Latin American Economic System.

It also requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Permanent Secretary of the Latin American Economic System to assess, at the appropriate time, the implementation of the Agreement between the two organizations and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.

6. Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform (General Assembly resolution 52/12 B)

The full text of General Assembly resolution 52/12 B, adopted on 19 December 1997, is reproduced as annex 6.

The General Assembly, among other recommendations, invited the Economic and Social Council, in consultation with Member States and appropriate intergovernmental regional bodies, to conduct a general review of the regional commissions at its substantive session of 1998, bearing in mind the relevant provisions of resolution 50/227 and the individual reviews each commission had already carried out, in order to consider the competencies of the regional commissions, taking into account the competencies of global bodies and other regional intergovernmental bodies, and to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly before the end of its fifty-second session.

7. Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development (General Assembly resolution 52/25)

The full text of General Assembly resolution 52/25, adopted on 26 November 1997, is reproduced in annex 7.

In this resolution, the General Assembly reaffirmed that the follow-up to the Summit would be undertaken on the basis of an integrated approach to social development and within the framework of a coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the results of the major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields.

It reiterated its invitation to the regional commissions, in accordance with their mandates and in cooperation with the regional intergovernmental organizations and banks, to convene on a biennial basis a meeting at a high political level to review the progress made towards implementing the outcome of the Summit.

It also welcomed the convening by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean of the first regional meeting to evaluate the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development held in São Paulo, Brazil, from 6 to 9 April 1997, and took note with appreciation of the final document of the meeting, known as the São Paulo Consensus.

8. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in the context of reform of the United Nations (Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/54)

The full text of Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/54, adopted on 23 July 1997, is reproduced in annex 8.

In this resolution, the Economic and Social Council noted with satisfaction the progress made by the ECLAC secretariat in fulfilling the instructions of the Commission, as expressed in its resolution 553 (XXVI), particularly with regard to institutional matters and management improvement and the coordination of activities with other organizations, in order to maintain its validity and relevance in the face of evolving circumstances that affected not only Latin America and Caribbean development but also the United Nations.

The Council also expressed its support for the general thrust of the management pilot scheme described in document LC/G.1964, which would be developed and described in detail and submitted for consideration and approval by States members of the Commission before its implementation, taking into account the statements made by the members of the ad hoc working group during its second meeting, held in New York on 5 June 1997.

Annex 1

51/4. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States

The General Assembly.

Recalling its resolution 49/5 of 21 October 1994 relating to the promotion of cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States,¹

Recalling that the purposes of the United Nations are, inter alia, to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends,

Bearing in mind that the Charter of the United Nations provides for the existence of regional arrangements and agencies for dealing with such matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security as are appropriate for regional action and whose activities are consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Recalling that the Charter of the Organization of American States reaffirms these purposes and principles and provides that that organization is a regional agency under the terms of the Charter of the United Nations,

Noting with satisfaction that the third general meeting between representatives of the United Nations system and of the Organization of American States was held at United Nations Headquarters on 17 and 18 April 1995,

Welcoming the fact that the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States attended the special commemorative meeting of the United Nations on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary,

Expressing its satisfaction at the way in which the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs and the Assistant Secretary-General of the Organization of American States have been performing their work of coordination between the two bodies,

Recalling its resolutions 47/20 A, 47/20 B, 48/27 B, 49/27 B, 49/5 and 50/86 B of 24 November 1992, 20 April 1993, 8 July 1994, 12 July 1995, 21 October 1994 and 3 April 1996, respectively,

¹ A/51/297 and Add.1.

Aware that the effective consolidation of a new international order requires regional action in harmony with that of the United Nations,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his initiative in convening a meeting between the United Nations and the heads of regional organizations on 15 and 16 February 1996, welcomes the participation of the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States in that meeting, and recommends that similar meetings be held more frequently;

2. Expresses its satisfaction at the close cooperation between the two organizations and, in particular, the support which they both gave to the conduct of the parliamentary municipal and presidential elections in Haiti from June to December 1995, and at the joint operations of the International Civilian Mission to Haiti;

3. Also expresses its satisfaction at the support given by the Electoral Observer Mission in the general elections in Nicaragua held on 20 October 1996, when the United Nations system also provided technical assistance;

4. Further expresses its satisfaction at the close cooperation between the two organizations in the observation and verification of the electoral process, and recognizes the effectiveness of that cooperation when it is requested by national authorities;

5. Welcomes the meetings between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States, as well as the regular meetings between their representatives throughout the period under review;

6. Also welcomes the signature on 17 April 1995 of the Collaboration Agreement between the United Nations and the Organization of American States;

7. Emphasizes that the cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States should be in accordance with their respective mandates, scope and composition and should take place in forms that are suited to each specific situation, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

8. Recommends that general meetings between representatives of the United Nations system and the Organization of American States be held when deemed necessary to continue to review and appraise progress, and that sectoral and focal point meetings be held on areas of priority or mutually agreed issues, continuing with the modality of operating through the focal points already established;

9. Expresses its appreciation for the efforts of the Secretary-General in the promotion of cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States, and expresses the hope that he will continue to strengthen the mechanism for cooperation between the two organizations;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

11. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States".

51/69. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/42 of 8 December 1995 and 50/203 of 22 December 1995,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolutions 1996/6 of 22 July 1996 on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and 1996/34 of 25 July 1996 on the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 1996-2001,

Reaffirming the importance of the outcome of the previous World Conferences on Women, held at Mexico City in 1975,¹ at Copenhagen in 1980² and at Nairobi in 1985,³

Recognizing the significance of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women,⁴ held at Beijing in 1995, to make a real change for the empowerment of women and thus to the fulfilment of the goals adopted in the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,⁵

Deeply convinced that the Beijing Declaration⁶ and the Platform for Action,⁷ adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, are important contributions to the advancement of women worldwide and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned, as well as non-governmental organizations,

Recognizing that the implementation of the Platform for Action rests primarily at the national level, that Governments, non-governmental organizations and public and private institutions should be involved in the implementation process and that national mechanisms also have an important role to play,

Bearing in mind that promotion of international cooperation is essential for the effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action,

¹ See Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, Mexico City, 19 June-2 July 1975 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.1).

² See Report of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Copenhagen, 14-30 July 1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.IV.3 and corrigendum).

³ See Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10).

⁴ See A/CONF.177/20 and Add.1.

⁵ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

⁶ A/CONF.177/20, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

⁷ *Ibid.*, annex II.

Recognizing that the implementation of the Platform for Action requires commitment from Governments and the international community,

Recognizing also the important role played by States, the United Nations, the regional commissions and other international organizations, as well as by non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, in the preparatory process of the Conference and the importance of their involvement in the implementation of the Platform for Action,

Taking into account the fact that the follow-up to the Conference should be undertaken on the basis of an integrated approach to the advancement of women within the framework of a coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the results of the major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields, as well as the overall responsibilities of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming its decision that the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women, in accordance with their respective mandates and with Assembly resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and other relevant resolutions, will constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that will play the primary role in the overall policy-making and follow-up and in coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Platform for Action, and reaffirming the need for a coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the results of major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields,

Reaffirming that the Commission on the Status of Women has a central role as a functional commission assisting the Economic and Social Council in the monitoring, within the United Nations system, of the implementation of the Platform for Action and in advising the Council thereon and should therefore be strengthened,

Reaffirming also that the Economic and Social Council should continue to oversee system-wide coordination in the implementation of the Platform for Action and ensure overall coordination of the follow-up to and implementation of the results of all United Nations international conferences in the economic, social and related fields and report thereon to the General Assembly,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women;⁸
2. Takes note of initiatives and actions taken by Governments and the international community towards the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action adopted by the Conference;
3. Calls once again upon States, the United Nations system and all other actors to implement the Platform for Action, in particular by promoting an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective at all levels, including in the design, monitoring and evaluation of all policies, as appropriate, in order to ensure effective implementation of the Platform;

⁸ A/51/322.

4. Welcomes the contribution of the report of the Secretary-General in translating the concept of mainstreaming into practical action, including the ongoing work to develop methodologies to facilitate the application of a gender perspective into all policies and programmes throughout the United Nations system;

5. Calls for intensified efforts at the international level to integrate the equal status and all human rights of women into the mainstream of United Nations system-wide activity and to address these issues regularly and systematically throughout the relevant United Nations bodies and mechanisms;

6. Stresses that Governments have the primary responsibility for implementing the Platform for Action, and reaffirms that Governments should continue to commit themselves at the highest political level to its implementation and should take a leading role in coordinating, monitoring and assessing progress in the advancement of women;

7. Calls upon States, with the assistance of non-governmental organizations, to continue to disseminate widely the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action;

8. Welcomes the progress made by Governments thus far towards meeting the commitment to developing, by 1996, comprehensive implementation strategies or plans of action, including time-bound targets and benchmarks for monitoring, and urges all Governments that have not yet done so to undertake efforts in this regard, in order to implement fully the Platform for Action;

9. Also welcomes the contribution made to the elaboration of guidelines for national strategies or plans of action by regional and subregional conferences on the implementation of the Platform for Action, such as the Outline of a Model National Action Plan by the Subregional Conference of Senior Governmental Experts held at Bucharest from 12 to 14 September 1996,⁹ which may assist other Governments, too, in meeting this commitment, and in this respect encourages the support of, inter alia, the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Secretariat;

10. Urges Governments that have not yet done so to establish or strengthen appropriate national machineries for the advancement of women at the highest political level, appropriate intra- and interministerial procedures and staffing and other institutions with the mandate and capacity to broaden women's participation and integrate gender analysis into policies and programmes, so as to ensure the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, and takes note of regional initiatives for strengthening national machineries;

11. Encourages non-governmental organizations to contribute to the design and implementation of these strategies or national plans of action in addition to their own programmes that complement government efforts;

12. Calls upon Governments to invite and encourage the active support and participation of a broad and diverse range of other institutional actors, including legislative bodies, academic and research institutions, professional associations, trade unions, local community groups and the media, as well as financial and non-profit organizations for the implementation of the Platform for Action;

⁹ See SRC/CEE/REP.1.

13. Recognizes the importance attached to the regional monitoring of the global and regional platforms for action by regional commissions and other subregional or regional structures, within their mandates, in consultation with Governments, and the necessity of promoting cooperation among Governments of the same region in this respect;

14. Invites the Economic and Social Council, in order to facilitate the regional implementation, monitoring and evaluation process, to consider reviewing the institutional capacity of the United Nations regional commissions, in accordance with paragraph 302 of the Platform for Action, and to consider, in this context, how best to integrate the inputs by the regional commissions into the overall monitoring and follow-up to the Platform for Action;

15. Calls upon States to take action to fulfil the commitments made at the Conference for the advancement of women and for the strengthening of international cooperation, and reaffirms that adequate financial resources should be committed at the international level for the implementation of the Platform for Action in the developing countries, in particular in Africa, and in the least developed countries;

16. Invites the Secretary-General, in the implementation of the United Nations system-wide initiative on Africa, to pay special attention to the needs and role of women as actors and beneficiaries in the development process;

17. Recognizes that implementation of the Platform for Action in the countries with economies in transition requires continued international cooperation and assistance, as indicated in the Platform for Action;

18. Calls upon Member States to allocate sufficient resources for undertaking gender impact analyses in order to develop successful national implementation strategies for the Platform for Action;

19. Stresses that full and effective implementation of the Platform for Action will require a political commitment to make available human and financial resources for the empowerment of women, the integration of a gender perspective in budgetary decisions on policies and programmes, as well as adequate financing of specific programmes for securing equality between women and men;

20. Welcomes the input of the Commission on the Status of Women to the discussion on the eradication of poverty in the coordination segment of the Economic and Social Council, inter alia, in relation to mainstreaming a gender perspective in poverty eradication activities and the use of available funding sources and mechanisms, with a view to contributing to the goals of poverty eradication and targeting women living in poverty;

21. Urges Governments, the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, relevant international organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to empower women through concrete actions, policies and programmes, including integration of gender perspectives;

22. Requests Governments and the international community to implement specific programmes for the eradication of poverty and illiteracy, ensuring women's equal access to education, training, employment and the promotion of entrepreneurial activities, and strongly urges the international

community to support national efforts towards the advancement of women in developing countries, particularly in Africa, and in the least developed countries;

23. Reaffirms that, in order to implement the Platform for Action, a reformulation of policies and reallocation of resources may be needed, but that some policy changes may not necessarily have financial implications;

24. Reaffirms also that, in order to implement the Platform for Action, adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels, as well as new and additional resources to the developing countries, in particular in Africa, and the least developed countries, from all available funding mechanisms, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources for the advancement of women, will also be required;

25. Calls upon those States committed to the 20:20 initiative to integrate a gender perspective fully into its implementation, as referred to in paragraph 358 of the Platform for Action;

26. Recognizes that the creation of an enabling environment, at the national and international levels, is necessary to ensure the full participation of women in economic activities, and calls upon States to remove obstacles for the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action;

27. Calls upon Member States to commit themselves to gender balance, inter alia, through the creation of special mechanisms, in all government-appointed committees, boards and other relevant official bodies, as appropriate, as well as in all international bodies, institutions and organizations, notably by presenting and promoting more women candidates;

28. Also calls upon Member States to aim at and support gender balance in the composition of delegations to the United Nations and other international forums;

29. Reaffirms that the implementation of the Platform for Action will require immediate and concerted action by all to create a peaceful, just and humane world based on all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the principle of equality for all people of all ages and from all walks of life, and to this end, recognizes that broad-based and sustained economic growth in the context of sustainable development is necessary to sustain social development and social justice;

30. Stresses, in relation to the United Nations, that the Platform for Action needs to be implemented through the work of all the bodies and organizations of the system during the period 1995-2000, specifically and as an integral part of wider programming;

31. Also stresses that the means of implementation of the Platform for Action should include mainstreaming a gender perspective in the context of preparation of the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999;

32. Welcomes the endorsement by the Economic and Social Council of the revised system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 1996-2001 and its decision to undertake, in 1998, a comprehensive mid-term review of the implementation of the revised plan as a basis for future programming and coordination of activities for the advancement and empowerment of women by the United Nations system, including a review of the progress made in mainstreaming a gender perspective in all activities of the United Nations system;

33. Requests the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to formulate a new system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women to cover the period 2002-2005, to submit a new draft plan to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2000 in order to provide guidance for the medium-term plans of the individual organizations of the United Nations system and to submit the draft plan to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-fourth session for comments;

34. Reiterates the need for an enhanced framework for international cooperation for gender-related issues in the integrated and comprehensive implementation, follow-up and assessment of the Platform for Action, taking into account the results of global United Nations summits and conferences;

35. Welcomes the decision of the Economic and Social Council to devote its 1997 coordination segment to mainstreaming a gender perspective, and reiterates its invitation to the Council to consider devoting one high-level segment and one operational segment to the advancement of women and the implementation of the Platform for Action, before the year 2000, taking into account the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women and all other functional commissions of the Council and the need for a system-wide approach to the implementation of the Platform for Action;

36. Also welcomes the establishment of the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality, and notes the work done by the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues for the system-wide implementation of the Platform for Action;

37. Further welcomes the fact that the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality will serve as a forum for information exchange and the promotion of programme coordination and collaborative arrangements among organizations of the system and will be responsible for addressing, on a comprehensive system-wide basis, all aspects of the implementation of the Platform for Action and gender-related recommendations emanating from other recent international conferences within the purview of the United Nations system;

38. Welcomes developments in coordination at the inter-agency level, including work done by the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality which is expected to move forward the conceptual discussion of mainstreaming, and stresses the need for further work to mainstream a gender perspective into the day-to-day work of United Nations staff throughout the system and in intergovernmental action beyond the social sectors and operational activities;

39. Also welcomes Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/6, in which the Council strengthened the mandate and the terms of reference of the Commission on the Status of Women and endorsed the Commission's multi-year work programme for the period 1996-2000, and also welcomes the agreed conclusions 1996/1 of the Commission on the Status of Women of March 1996 on the Commission's methods of work for dealing with the implementation of the Platform for Action;¹⁰

40. Invites once again all other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, within their mandates, to take due account of the Platform for Action and to ensure the integration of gender aspects in their respective work;

¹⁰ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 6 (E/1996/26), chap. I, sect. C. 1.

41. Welcomes the measures taken by the Secretary-General to date to ensure coordination of policy within the United Nations for the implementation of the Platform for Action and the mainstreaming of a system-wide gender perspective in all activities of the United Nations system, including training, in accordance with paragraph 326 of the Platform for Action;

42. Requests the Secretary-General to present action-oriented recommendations to the Economic and Social Council at its coordination segment on means to enhance system-wide coordination on gender issues and to mainstream a gender perspective throughout the United Nations system;

43. Also requests the Secretary-General to continue to disseminate the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action as widely as possible, including to the competent organs of the United Nations and the specialized agencies;

44. Reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to ensure that the Division for the Advancement of Women can effectively carry out all the tasks foreseen for it in the Platform for Action by, inter alia, providing sufficient human and financial resources within the regular budget of the United Nations;

45. Requests the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, to ensure that the resident coordinators fully incorporate a gender perspective in integrating the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women into the coordinated follow-up to recent global United Nations conferences;

46. Welcomes the decision of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to amend its reporting guidelines in line with the recommendations of paragraph 323 of the Platform for Action to enable it to consider reports submitted by States parties, and invites States parties to include information on measures taken to implement the Platform for Action in their reports;

47. Notes the importance of the activities undertaken by the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women in the implementation of the Platform for Action;

48. Commends the work of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on the issues addressing, inter alia, the process of the economic and political empowerment of women, statistics and indicators in gender issues, and requests the Institute to incorporate in its biennial work programme appropriate actions in order to carry out research and training components relevant to the twelve critical areas of concern and the implementation of the Platform for Action, within its area of expertise;

49. Also commends the work of the United Nations Development Fund for Women in providing a strategic and focused response to the follow-up and implementation of the Platform for Action through its advocacy and operational activities in support of women's economic and political empowerment, and encourages the Fund to provide technical support to operationalize the Platform for Action at the national level through, inter alia, the resident coordinator system and taking into account

decision 1996/43 of 13 September 1996 of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund;¹¹

50. Encourages the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women to strengthen their cooperation and coordination;

51. Encourages international financial institutions to review and revise policies, procedures and staffing to ensure that investments and programmes benefit women and thus contribute to sustainable development;

52. Invites the World Trade Organization to consider how it might contribute to the implementation of the Platform for Action, including activities in cooperation with the United Nations system;

53. Decides to appraise the progress on an annual basis and to retain in the agenda of its forthcoming sessions the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women", with a view to assessing, in the year 2000, the progress achieved in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and the Platform for Action in an appropriate forum;

54. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session and thereafter annually, through the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council, on ways to enhance the capacity of the Organization and of the United Nations system to support the ongoing follow-up to the Conference in the most integrated and effective way, including human and financial requirements and measures taken and progress achieved in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action.

¹¹ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 13 (E/1996/33).

51/176. Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/128 of 19 December 1994 and 50/124 of 20 December 1995,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/2 of 17 July 1996 on the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development,

Acknowledging fully the integrated approach taken during the International Conference on Population and Development, which recognizes the interrelationship between population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 50/124,¹

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 50/124;
2. Notes the action taken so far by Governments and the international community to implement the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,² and encourages them to strengthen their efforts in that regard;
3. Reiterates that Governments should continue to commit themselves at the highest political level to achieving goals and objectives and to take a lead role in coordinating the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the follow-up actions at the national level;
4. Urges all countries to consider, among other things, their current spending priorities, with a view to making additional contributions in line with national priorities for the implementation of the Programme of Action, taking into account the provisions of chapters XIII and XIV thereof and the economic constraints faced by developing countries, in particular the least developed among them;
5. Emphasizes that international cooperation in the field of population and development is essential for the implementation of the recommendations adopted at the Conference and, in this context, calls upon the international community to continue to provide, both bilaterally and multilaterally, adequate and substantial support and assistance for population and development activities, including through the United Nations Population Fund, other organs and organizations of the United Nations system and the specialized agencies that will be involved in the implementation, at all levels, of the Programme of Action;

¹ A/51/350.

² Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

6. Reiterates the importance of South-South cooperation for the successful implementation of the Programme of Action and invites all Governments, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, as well as the private sector and non-governmental organizations, to continue to support those activities in South-South cooperation being undertaken by the developing countries;

7. Recognizes the efforts of Partners in Population and Development in strengthening the capacities of developing countries in South-South cooperation;

8. Emphasizes the importance of the identification and allocation of financial resources by all members of the international community, including regional financial institutions, to enable them to fulfil their commitments with regard to the implementation of the Programme of Action;

9. Requests the Economic and Social Council to continue to give guidance on matters concerning harmonization, cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system regarding the implementation of the Programme of Action;

10. Reiterates that the Commission on Population and Development, as a functional commission assisting the Economic and Social Council, has the primary responsibility for monitoring, reviewing and assessing the implementation of the Programme of Action, and emphasizes the need for the Commission to continue its work in broadening its focus so as to fully reflect the Programme of Action;

11. Invites the Secretary-General to ensure that the Task Force on Basic Social Services for All of the Administrative Committee on Coordination informs the Commission and the Economic and Social Council on the progress of its work, with an emphasis on the improvement of the impact of programme delivery for the purpose of system-wide coordination, and stresses the need for close cooperation and timely reporting by all the working groups of the Task Force;

12. Emphasizes the importance of the ongoing efforts of the Task Force to develop, on an urgent basis, appropriate indicators as reliable means for monitoring the progress of the implementation of the Programme of Action, with special attention to the reproductive health needs of individual countries, taking into account relevant research and development work as well as existing data collection systems in developing countries, and to make this information available as it is developed to the Commission on Population and Development, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

13. Endorses the continuation of coordination and collaboration between the Task Force and the appropriate United Nations entities responsible for the development of statistics;

14. Reaffirms that the follow-up to the Conference, at all levels, should take fully into account that population, health, education, poverty, patterns of production and consumption, empowerment of women and the environment are closely interconnected and should be considered through an integrated approach;

15. Recommends that the special session for the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, which will be convened from 23 to 27 June 1997, should give due attention to the issue of population in the context of sustainable development;

16. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution;

17. Decides to include in the agenda of its fifty-second session, the sub-item entitled "Population and development".

51/183 Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/100 and 49/122 of 19 December 1994 and 50/116 of 20 December 1995, on or related to the implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and reaffirming Commission on Sustainable Development decision 4/16¹ on the review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,²

Reaffirming that, because the development options of small island developing States are limited, there are special challenges to devising and implementing sustainable development plans, and that small island developing States will be constrained in meeting such challenges and overcoming obstacles to sustainable development without the active support and cooperation of the international community,

Stressing the need for greater attention to priority areas of the Programme of Action, particularly climate change and sea-level rise, energy resources, tourism resources, biodiversity resources, transport and communications and science and technology,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General³ on action taken at the international, regional and national levels, inter alia, by the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to implement the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,² and welcomes in particular the action that has been taken by the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the Secretariat to support the system-wide implementation of the Programme of Action;

2. Stresses the importance of maintaining the Small Island Developing States Unit within the above-mentioned Department, and requests the Secretary-General to maintain the Unit at an appropriate level of staff and improve the structure and organization of the Unit, in accordance with resolution 49/122;

3. Welcomes the work being done by the regional commissions to support activities to coordinate the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

¹ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 8 (E/1996/28), chap. I, sect. C.

² Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

³ A/51/354.

4. Takes note of the decisions of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, at its ninth session, related to programme support for small island developing countries,⁴ within the framework of the Programme of Action, and requests the Secretary-General to implement fully the relevant provisions of resolution 49/122;

5. Calls upon Governments, as well as the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, to continue to implement fully all the commitments and recommendations that were made at the Global Conference, and to continue to take the necessary actions for effective follow-up to the Programme of Action, including action to ensure the provision of the means of implementation under chapter XV thereof;

6. Recognizes the importance of the technical assistance programme, known as SIDSTAP, and the information network for small island developing States, known as SIDSNET, in the overall implementation of the Programme of Action, takes note of the progress made by the United Nations Development Programme in implementing resolution 49/122, and requests the Programme, in cooperation with Governments, to continue its actions to implement fully all provisions in order to operationalize the two mechanisms;

7. Takes note of the support that has been provided by the Commission on Sustainable Development to following up the implementation of the Programme of Action in accordance with resolution 49/122 and the Programme of Action itself, and invites the Commission at its fifth session to continue its support for and attention to the Programme of Action, as an integral part of the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly to be held in June 1997;

8. Requests that, in the context of the special session of the General Assembly, specific modalities be recommended for examining all outstanding chapters of the Programme of Action and for undertaking the full review of the Programme of Action in 1999;

9. Welcomes the inclusion of the development of a vulnerability index for small island developing States as part of the work programme of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development for 1996-1997, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Environment Programme, other relevant United Nations organizations and non-United Nations organizations, to prepare a report based on the views of relevant experts on the vulnerability index, in 1997;

10. Requests the Committee for Development Planning, at its thirty-second session, to formulate its views and recommendations on the above-mentioned report, in order to submit those views to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council, and to make this information available to the Commission on Sustainable Development;

11. Requests the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, in its coordinating role, to look into appropriate modalities for mobilizing resources for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and provide information thereon;

⁴ See TD/378.

12. Requests closer collaboration and greater transparency between the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development and the United Nations Development Programme for effective implementation of SIDSTAP, and requests detailed information to be made available to Governments on actions taken to this effect;

13. Welcomes the report of the High-level Panel Meeting on Island Developing Countries⁵ on the challenges faced by island developing countries, particularly in the area of external trade, considered by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fourth session;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to seek the views of Governments on the creation of an informal open-ended working group within the existing International Framework of Action for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction,⁶ with the membership of all concerned States, including all relevant sectors in disaster reduction, with a view to ensuring full integration and participation of small island developing States in the mapping of a concerted strategy for disaster reduction into the twenty-first century and in improving access to disaster and warning information in order to enhance the capability of small island developing States with respect to disaster management;

15. Stresses that small island developing States are particularly vulnerable to global climate change and sea-level rise, and that the potential effects of global climate change and sea-level rise are increased strength and frequency of tropical storms and inundation of some islands, with loss of exclusive economic zones, economic infrastructure, human settlements and culture, and urges the international community to support small island developing States in their efforts to adapt to the sea-level rise that will be experienced as a result of the impact of greenhouse gases that have already been emitted into the atmosphere;

16. Calls upon the international community, including the Global Environment Facility, within the framework of its operational strategy, to support commercial energy development in small island developing States based on those environmentally sound renewable sources with demonstrated viability, to support improvement of the efficiency of existing technologies and end-use equipment based on conventional energy sources, and to assist with the financing of investments necessary to expand energy supplies beyond urban areas;

17. Also calls upon the international community, where appropriate, to support the efforts of and to provide assistance to small island developing States with respect to improving and acquiring, through appropriate investment incentives and innovative measures, the means of maritime transport and development of infrastructure in small island developing States, such as airports, harbours, roads and telecommunications;

18. Welcomes actions at the national and regional levels by small island developing States, and invites all Governments, with the assistance of international and regional organizations, to provide information on all of their major activities under the Programme of Action so as to enable an adequate review of the actions taken at the national and regional levels;

19. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the plans, programmes and projects for the sustainable development of small island

⁵ E/CN.17/1996/IDC/3-UNCTAD/LLDC/IDC/3.

⁶ See resolution 44/236, annex.

developing States that have been implemented in response to the Programme of Action, as well as those that are under implementation and those that are envisaged for implementation within five years of the date of the report;

20. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty- second session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States";

21. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a progress report on the particular actions taken to implement the present resolution.

52/3 Cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/14 of 15 November 1995 on cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System,¹

Bearing in mind the Agreement between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System, in which the parties agree to strengthen and expand their cooperation in matters which are of common concern in the field of their respective competence pursuant to their constitutional instruments,

Considering that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean has developed ties of cooperation with the Latin American Economic System which have grown stronger in recent years,

Bearing in mind that the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American Economic System has carried out several programmes with the support of the United Nations Development Programme in areas that are considered of priority for the economic and social development of the region,

Considering that the Latin American Economic System is developing joint activities with the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, such as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the World Health Organization and the World Intellectual Property Organization,

Welcoming the continued monitoring of changes in the treatment of topics relating to the United Nations system, in close contact with the delegations of the Member States participating in such deliberations,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary- General;¹
2. Urges the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to continue broadening and deepening its coordination and mutual support activities with the Latin American Economic System;
3. Urges the United Nations Development Programme, within its new overall framework and high- priority development objectives in support of sustainable human development, to renew and expand its financial and technical cooperation with the programmes that the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American Economic System is carrying out in areas of mutual interest and concern, aimed at complementing the technical assistance activities conducted by the Latin American Economic System;

¹ A/52/376.

4. Urges the specialized agencies and other organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to continue and intensify their support for, and cooperation in the activities of, the Latin American Economic System;

5. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Permanent Secretary of the Latin American Economic System to assess, at the appropriate time, the implementation of the Agreement between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

52/12. Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform

B *

The General Assembly,

Having considered further the report of the Secretary-General on renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform,¹ and the recommendations contained therein,

Recalling its resolution 52/12 A of 12 November 1997,

Recalling also its resolutions 50/227 of 24 May 1996, 51/240 of 20 June 1997 and 51/241 of 31 July 1997, as well as all other relevant resolutions and decisions, which contain legislative mandates and programme guidance, and, in particular, the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001,

Reaffirming that financial implications of any reform measure or proposal on which the General Assembly is to take action should be considered in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly,

A. Deputy Secretary-General

1. Decides to establish the post of Deputy Secretary-General as an integral part of the Office of the Secretary-General, as set out in addendum 1 to the report of the Secretary-General² and in the statement made by the Secretary-General on 4 November 1997 to the open-ended informal consultations of the General Assembly on United Nations reform: measures and proposals,³ without prejudice to the mandate of the Secretary-General as provided by the Charter of the United Nations and, in accordance with the existing system of decision-making, with responsibilities delegated by the Secretary-General, including the following:

- (a) To assist the Secretary-General in managing the operations of the Secretariat;
- (b) To act for the Secretary-General at United Nations Headquarters in the absence of the Secretary-General and in other cases as may be decided by the Secretary-General;
- (c) To support the Secretary-General in ensuring intersectoral and inter-institutional coherence of activities and programmes and to support the Secretary-General in elevating the profile and leadership of the United Nations in the economic and social spheres, including further efforts to strengthen the United Nations as a leading centre for development policy and development assistance;

* Consequently, resolution 52/12 of 12 November 1997 becomes resolution 52/12 A.

¹ A/51/950 and Add.1-7.

² A/51/950/Add.1

³ See A/52/585.

(d) To represent the Secretary-General at conferences, official functions and ceremonial and other occasions as may be decided by the Secretary-General;

(e) To undertake such assignments as may be determined by the Secretary-General;

2. Notes that the Secretary-General will appoint the Deputy Secretary-General following consultations with Member States and in accordance with Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations and that the term of office of the Deputy Secretary-General will not exceed that of the Secretary-General;

B. New approaches to policy formulation

3. Welcomes the recommendations of the Secretary-General aimed at the rationalization, streamlining and enhancement of the work of the General Assembly, taking into account the measures already undertaken towards this end in order to further strengthen the Assembly as the organ of the United Nations that most fully embodies the universal and democratic character of the Organization;

4. Decides, in this context, to continue during its fifty-second session its in-depth consideration of those recommendations under the item entitled "Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly", taking into account the report to be submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with resolution 51/241;

C. Peace, security and disarmament

5. Invites Member States to improve the supply of information to the Secretary-General that could assist the Organization to prevent conflict and maintain international peace and security in full accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations;

6. Stresses that enhancing the rapid deployment capacity of the United Nations in peacekeeping operations can play a valuable role in the effectiveness of its response to a conflict, and, in this context, requests the appropriate organs to consider, as a matter of priority, specific measures to that effect, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/69 of 10 December 1997 and taking into account the proposals to be submitted by the Secretary-General and the views of Member States;

7. Endorses the recommendation that the Security Council, in establishing a peacekeeping operation in the future, should prescribe a time-frame for the conclusion of the status-of-forces agreement between the United Nations and the host Government for the operation in question and that, pending the conclusion of such an agreement, a model status-of-forces agreement would apply provisionally unless otherwise agreed by the parties concerned, and invites the Security Council to consider the matter;

8. Decides that the Disarmament Commission and the First Committee of the General Assembly should undertake a review of their work, to be concluded before the end of the fifty-second session, with a view to its revitalization, rationalization and streamlining, taking into account discussions that have already taken place on this issue;

D. Economic and social affairs

9. Invites the Economic and Social Council to consider, at its organizational and substantive sessions in 1998, as part of the review of the mandates, composition, functions and working methods of its functional commissions and expert groups and bodies, as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/227, the recommendations of the Secretary-General relating to the reform of its subsidiary bodies, including a time-frame for implementation of its decisions thereon, as well as his recommendations relating to the organization and methods of work of the Council, and to report thereon to the Assembly as early as possible during its fifty-second session;

10. Invites the Economic and Social Council, in consultation with Member States and appropriate intergovernmental regional bodies, to conduct a general review of the regional commissions at its substantive session of 1998, bearing in mind the relevant provisions of resolution 50/227 and the individual reviews each commission has already carried out, in order to consider the competencies of the regional commissions, taking into account the competencies of global bodies and other regional and subregional intergovernmental bodies, and to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly before the end of its fifty-second session;

11. Endorses the recommendation of the Secretary-General to discontinue the High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development;

E. Development cooperation

12. Accepts that management of funds and programmes would be enhanced by greater integration of intergovernmental oversight, and requests the Economic and Social Council, in the context of the next triennial policy review of the United Nations, during its operational activities segment of 1998, to consider arrangements for closer integration of the governance oversight of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund and of the United Nations Children's Fund, with consecutive and/or joint meetings of the existing Executive Boards, bearing in mind the respective mandates of the Executive Boards of the funds and programmes;

13. Takes note, in this context, of the decision already taken by the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund and by the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund to organize a joint meeting in January 1998;

14. Recognizes the urgent need for resources for development on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, taking fully into account the principle of neutrality, and requests the Secretary-General to submit, by the end of March 1998, for consideration by the General Assembly, specific proposals for the establishment of a new system of core resources, taking into account the views expressed by Member States;

F. Humanitarian affairs

15. Decides to designate the Emergency Relief Coordinator as the United Nations Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator, who will, inter alia, retain responsibility for coordination of natural disaster relief;

16. Decides also to transfer to the United Nations Development Programme the responsibilities of the Emergency Relief Coordinator for operational activities for natural disaster mitigation, prevention and preparedness, with the understanding that the resources for this task will be separate and additional to the resources of the United Nations Development Programme for development activities and that they will be provided by a grant from the regular budget of the United Nations for the biennium 1998-1999;

17. Requests the Secretary-General to submit, before the end of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, a report on the method of financing of natural disaster mitigation, prevention and preparedness activities beyond the biennium 1998-1999;

18. Decides to establish a humanitarian affairs segment of the Economic and Social Council, with effect from 1998, and, in this connection, requests the Council to consider expeditiously the related practical arrangements and make an early recommendation to the General Assembly, without prejudice to the work of the other segments of the Council;

G. Financing the Organization

19. Reaffirms the obligation of all Member States, in accordance with the Charter, to pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions;

20. Takes note of the recommendation of the Secretary-General that a revolving credit fund be established through voluntary contributions or any other means of financing that Member States may wish to suggest, and requests the Secretary-General, taking into account the views expressed by Member States, to submit by the end of March 1998 detailed proposals to the General Assembly, through the competent bodies, for the proposed establishment of such a fund, including its financing, management and operation, while emphasizing that the priority lies in the compliance by all Member States with their financial obligations to the United Nations;

21. Takes notes also of the recommendation of the Secretary-General that, in future, any unspent balances under the regular budget at the end of the fiscal period be retained, and invites the competent bodies to consider the implications of such retention, as well as the appropriate use of such balances, including possible allocation to development programmes, on the basis of a report to be submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly, before the end of its fifty-second session;

H. Management

22. Decides to examine the recommendation of the Secretary-General on initiating a review of the International Civil Service Commission, and, on the basis of information to be provided by the Secretary-General, requests the competent intergovernmental bodies to consider the modalities for such a review and to report to the General Assembly before the end of its fifty-second session;

23. Notes that the Secretary-General has submitted the draft Code of Conduct for United Nations Staff⁴ to the General Assembly, and agrees to expedite its consideration;

⁴ 4 A/52/488.

24. Decides to establish, in the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999, a development account to be funded from savings from possible reductions in administration and other overhead costs, without affecting full implementation of mandated programmes and activities, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a detailed report by the end of March 1998 identifying the sustainability of this initiative, as well as the modalities of implementation, the specific purposes and associated performance criteria for the use of such resources;

25. Takes note of the recommendation of the Secretary-General to shift United Nations programme budgeting towards a system of results-based budgeting, and requests him to submit, through the competent bodies, a more detailed report that will include a full explanation for the proposed change, and the methodology to be used, as well as a mock-up of one or more sections of the budget for consideration before the end of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly;

I. Longer-term changes

26. Recognizes that reform of the United Nations will be an ongoing process and that there is a need for the United Nations to consider changes of a more fundamental nature and other broader issues, and invites the Secretary-General to elaborate further his proposals, taking into account the views of Governments, and to present them to the General Assembly by the end of March 1998 on:

- (a) A new concept of trusteeship;
- (b) A Millennium Assembly;
- (c) A Millennium Forum;
- (d) The United Nations system (a Special Commission at the ministerial level to examine the need for possible amendments to the Charter of the United Nations and the treaties from which the specialized agencies derive their mandates);
- (e) Provisions whereby initiatives that involve new mandates and institutional machinery would be subject to specific time limits that would require explicit review and renewal by the General Assembly (sunset provisions);

27. Looks forward to the convening of the United Nations Conference of Plenipotentiaries to finalize and adopt a convention to establish an international criminal court as a step that would strengthen significantly the rule of law in the century ahead;

28. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "United Nations reform: measures and proposals".

52/25. Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 46/139 of 17 December 1991, 47/92 of 16 December 1992, 48/100 of 20 December 1993, 50/161 of 22 December 1995, 50/227 of 24 May 1996 and 51/202 of 17 December 1996,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council decision 1991/230 of 30 May 1991, resolutions 1992/27 of 30 July 1992, 1995/60 of 28 July 1995, 1996/7 of 22 July 1996, 1996/36 of 26 July 1996 and 1997/56 of 23 July 1997 and agreed conclusions 1995/1 of 28 July 1995, 1996/1 of 26 July 1996 and 1997/1 of 25 July 1997,

1. Reaffirms the commitments adopted by heads of State and Government at the World Summit for Social Development, contained in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development¹ and the Programme of Action,² and their pledge to give the highest priority to national, regional and international policies and actions for the promotion of social progress, social justice, the betterment of the human condition and social integration, based on full participation by all;

2. Emphasizes the need to create a framework for action to place people at the centre of development and direct economies to meet human needs more effectively;

3. Stresses the need for renewed and massive political will at the national, regional and international levels to invest in people and their well-being in order to achieve the objectives of social development;

4. Emphasizes that democracy, respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society, and effective participation by civil society, are an essential part of the necessary foundations for the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development;

5. Also emphasizes that an equitable and favourable national and international economic, political, social and legal environment, in accordance with the provisions of chapter I of the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, is essential for the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development;

6. Stresses that social development is clearly linked to the development of peace, freedom, stability and security, both nationally and internationally;

¹ Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I

² Ibid., annex II.

7. Takes note of the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development³ and on the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty (1996) and recommendations for the rest of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty;⁴

Critical importance of national action and international
cooperation for social development

8. Stresses that social development and the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Summit are primarily the responsibility of Governments and that international cooperation and assistance are essential for their full implementation;

9. Notes with satisfaction the initiatives and actions taken by Governments towards the implementation of the commitments made at the Summit;

10. Reiterates its call to Governments to define and implement time-bound goals and targets for reducing overall poverty and eradicating absolute poverty, expanding employment and reducing unemployment and enhancing social integration, within each national context;

11. Urges national Governments to formulate or strengthen comprehensive cross-sectoral strategies for implementing the Summit outcome and national strategies for social development;

12. Acknowledges the key role of developing country actors and institutions in creating and implementing effective programmes to maximize the positive impact of investments in social development;

13. Stresses the importance of putting full employment at the centre of policy-making in conjunction with other goals, while emphasizing the need for enhancing employment opportunities for women and for groups with specific needs;

14. Reiterates the call of the Summit for Governments to assess on a regular basis national progress towards implementing the outcome of the Summit, and encourages them to submit such information on a voluntary basis to the Commission for Social Development, which serves, inter alia, as a forum for the exchange of national experiences;

15. Stresses its solidarity with people living in poverty in all countries, and reaffirms that the satisfaction of basic human needs is an essential element of poverty eradication, those needs being closely interrelated and comprising nutrition, health, water and sanitation, education, employment, housing and equal opportunities for participation in political, economic, cultural and social life;

16. Reaffirms the need to strengthen, in a spirit of partnership, international, regional and subregional cooperation for social development and implementing the outcome of the Summit;

³ A/52/305.

⁴ A/52/573.

17. Calls upon all Governments and the United Nations system, in particular the relevant funds, programmes and agencies, to promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective and to use gender analysis as a tool for the integration of a gender dimension into the planning and implementation of policies, strategies and programmes on social development;

Mobilization of financial resources

18. Recognizes that the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action will require the mobilization of financial resources at the national and international levels, as set out in commitments 8 and 9 of the Declaration and paragraphs 87 to 93 of the Programme of Action;

19. Recognizes also that the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action in developing countries, in particular in Africa and the least developed countries, needs additional financial resources from all sources and more effective development cooperation and assistance;

20. Calls upon all countries to develop economic policies that promote and mobilize domestic savings and attract external resources for productive investment and to seek innovative sources of funding, both public and private, for social programmes, while ensuring their effective utilization, and in the budgetary process, to ensure transparency and accountability in the use of public resources and to give priority to providing and improving basic social services;

21. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on new and innovative ideas for generating funds for globally agreed commitments and priorities;⁵

22. Welcomes the holding of the Micro-credit Summit in Washington, D.C., from 2 to 4 February 1997, and the adoption of the Micro-credit Declaration and Plan of Action, and encourages its full implementation as appropriate by all concerned;

23. Calls upon the international community, including international financial institutions, to implement fully and effectively all initiatives that will contribute to a durable solution to the debt problems of developing countries, in particular African countries and the least developed countries, and thus to support their efforts to achieve social development and, in this context, reaffirms the need to make further progress towards the implementation of the recommendations of the World Summit for Social Development by the Bretton Woods institutions, including the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative;

24. Reaffirms the need to continue to evaluate the impact of structural adjustment programmes by, inter alia, integrating the social dimensions involved and, in this context, welcomes the recent initiatives of the World Bank, including the Structural Adjustment Participatory Review Initiative, which brings together a tripartite team in a number of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to review at the national level structural adjustment experiences and to identify problems;

25. Also reaffirms that a strong political commitment by the international community is needed to implement strengthened international cooperation for development, including social development, that the mobilization of domestic and international resources for development from all sources is an essential component for the comprehensive and effective implementation of development,

⁵ A/52/203-E/1997/85.

that enhanced efforts should be made for the mobilization and provision of new and additional financial resources for the development of developing countries and that, despite an increase in private capital flows, official development assistance remains an essential source of external funding, and notes that developed countries reaffirm the commitments undertaken to fulfil as soon as possible the agreed United Nations targets of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall official development assistance and 0.15 per cent of the gross national product for official development assistance for the least developed countries, that donor countries that have met the 0.15 per cent target will seek to undertake to reach 0.20 per cent, and that further efforts are also needed to improve the effectiveness of official development assistance and to focus such aid on the poorest countries;

26. Further reaffirms the importance of agreeing on a mutual commitment between interested developed and developing country partners to allocate, on average, 20 per cent of official development assistance and 20 per cent of the national budget, respectively, to basic social programmes, and recalls the outcome of the meeting held at Oslo from 23 to 25 April 1996,⁶ which reaffirmed that promoting access for all to basic social services was essential for sustainable development and should be an integral part of any strategy to overcome poverty;

27. Recognizes the necessity of providing appropriate technical cooperation and other forms of assistance to the countries with economies in transition, as set out in the provisions of the Declaration and Programme of Action;

Involvement of civil society and other actors

28. Reaffirms the need for effective partnership and cooperation between Governments and the relevant actors of civil society, the social partners, the major groups as defined in Agenda 21,⁷ including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in the implementation of and follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, and for ensuring their involvement in the planning, elaboration, implementation and evaluation of social policies at the national level;

29. Encourages non-governmental organizations to participate in the work of the Commission for Social Development, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996 and decisions 1996/315 of 14 November 1996 and 1997/298 of 23 July 1997, and in the implementation process related to the Summit to the maximum extent possible;

The role of the United Nations system

30. Recalls Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/7, by which the Council decided that the Commission for Social Development, as a functional commission of the Council, shall have the primary responsibility for the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit;

⁶ See A/51/140, annex.

⁷ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

31. Invites Governments to support the work of the Commission, including through the participation of high-level representatives on social development issues and policies;

32. Takes note of the request made by the Commission to the Secretary-General, in the framework of United Nations system-wide coordination, to assist the Commission and the Council to broaden and deepen the policy debate on employment issues;

33. Welcomes in this regard resolution 35/2 adopted by the Commission on the priority theme "Productive employment and sustainable livelihoods" and the agreed conclusions contained therein,⁸ in which the Commission recognized, inter alia, the importance of full, productive, appropriately and adequately remunerated, and freely chosen employment as a central objective of economic and social policies, defining time-bound goals and targets for expanding employment and reducing unemployment, and preparing policies for the achievement of those goals and targets;

34. Also welcomes agreed conclusions 1997/1, adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its high-level segment on the theme "Fostering an enabling environment for development: financial flows, including capital flows, investment and trade" and calls for their implementation;

35. Further welcomes Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/60 of 25 July 1997, entitled "Eradication of poverty", and the decision of the Council therein to carry out in 1999 an overall review of the theme of poverty eradication in order to contribute to the special session of the General Assembly in 2000 for the overall review of the Summit and to the five-year review of the Beijing Platform for Action;⁹

36. Welcomes Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/61 of 25 July 1997, on integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of the major United Nations international conferences and summits, in which the Council reaffirmed the need to continue to ensure the harmonization and coordination of the agendas and work programmes of the functional commissions by promoting a clearer division of labour among them and by providing clear policy guidance to them;

37. Welcomes Economic and Social Council decision 1997/302 of 25 July 1997 on the convening of a session of the Council in 1998 to consider further the theme of integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of the major United Nations international conferences and summits;

38. Renews its call to all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to be involved in the follow-up action to the Summit, and invites funds and programmes, specialized agencies and related organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen and adjust their activities, programmes and medium-term strategies, as appropriate, to take into account the follow-up to the Summit;

⁸ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 6 (E/1997/26-E/CN.5/1997/11), chap. I, sect. D.

⁹ Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

39. Takes note with appreciation of the work of the inter-agency task forces established by the Administrative Committee on Coordination, as contained in the report of the Secretary-General on integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of the major United Nations international conferences and summits;¹⁰

40. Takes note of the emphasis placed by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1997/61 on the need for the Administrative Committee on Coordination to ensure that there is effective inter-agency support for the work of the intergovernmental bodies dealing with conference follow-up, including the Council and its functional commissions, that there is regular updating and feedback on the incorporation of the work of the task forces at the country level, and that the Council is kept fully informed of the work and decisions of that Committee concerning integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of the major United Nations international conferences and summits;

41. Urges the continued involvement and support by the regional commissions in the promotion of the implementation of the objectives of the World Summit for Social Development at the regional and subregional levels, and reiterates its invitation to the commissions, in accordance with their mandates and in cooperation with the regional intergovernmental organizations and banks, to convene on a biennial basis a meeting at a high political level to review the progress made towards implementing the outcome of the Summit, to exchange views on their respective experiences and to adopt appropriate measures;

42. Welcomes in this context the convening by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean of the first regional meeting to evaluate the World Summit for Social Development, held at São Paulo from 6 to 9 April 1997, with the participation of high-level representatives of Latin American and Caribbean countries, and takes note with appreciation of the final document of the meeting, known as the São Paulo Consensus;

43. Also welcomes the convening by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific of the Fifth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development at Manila, from 5 to 11 November 1997, to review national progress achieved and regional action taken in the implementation of the outcome of the Summit;

44. Further welcomes the convening of the expert group meeting on employment questions at Vienna, from 2 to 6 February 1998, as a follow-up to the Summit in the European region;

45. Urges the Economic Commission for Africa to convene in the forthcoming year a regional meeting to evaluate the follow-up of the World Summit for Social Development in the African region;

46. Welcomes the efforts of funds and programmes in assisting countries in implementing all Summit commitments at the national, regional and international levels;

47. Also welcomes the efforts of the United Nations Development Programme in the implementation of Summit commitments aimed at poverty eradication in developing countries, particularly in Africa and the least developed countries;

¹⁰ E/1997/73.

48. Takes note with appreciation of the contribution of the International Labour Organization to the consideration by the Commission for Social Development, at its thirty-fifth session, of the theme "Productive employment and sustainable livelihoods" and reiterates its invitation to the International Labour Organization to continue to contribute to the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action and to the work of the Commission for Social Development;

Special session of the General Assembly in 2000 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit

49. Recalls its resolution 50/161, in which it decided to hold a special session in 2000 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit and to consider further actions and initiatives;

50. Also recalls its resolution 51/202, in which it decided on the preparatory process of the special session;

51. Decides to establish a Preparatory Committee open to the participation of all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies, with the participation of observers in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly, and that the Preparatory Committee will hold an organizational session of four days' duration, from 19 to 22 May 1998;

52. Also decides that, at its organizational session, the Preparatory Committee will consider and decide on the process to be followed to achieve the purpose of the special session with respect to an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit, and the consideration of further actions and initiatives and that, in this context, the Preparatory Committee will decide, inter alia, on the programme and organization of its work, including issues such as documentation, national contributions and input from the United Nations system, the election of its Bureau, the participation of non-governmental organizations, the dates for the special session and other organizational issues;

53. Reaffirms that the Preparatory Committee will initiate its substantive activities in 1999 on the basis of input by the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council, and that account will be taken of contributions by all relevant organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system;

54. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare the necessary documentation for the Preparatory Committee at its organizational session and in particular to present a report at the organizational session, containing recommendations and proposals on the organization of the work of the Preparatory Committee;

55. Reaffirms that the follow-up to the Summit will be undertaken on the basis of an integrated approach to social development and within the framework of a coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the results of the major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields;

56. Invites Governments to contribute to the Trust Fund for the Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development in support of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, including the preparation for the special session of the Assembly;

57. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the preparatory process for the special session benefits from the active involvement of all concerned and that the secretariat is adequately supported;

58. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its fifty-third session on the implementation of the outcome of the Summit;

59. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development".

1997/54. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in the context of reform of the United Nations

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolution 553(XXVI) on reform of the United Nations and its impact on the Commission and, in particular, its decision to establish an ad hoc working group open to all its member countries, which group was empowered, inter alia, to recommend to the Commission strategic directions for its future activities in the context of the ongoing process of reform of the United Nations,

Taking note of the discussions at the 2nd meeting of the ad hoc working group established pursuant to Commission resolution 553(XXVI), held in New York on 5 June 1997,

Bearing in mind its resolution 1996/41 and General Assembly resolution 50/227, which refer to the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields and call for a review of the regional commissions with a view to strengthening and enhancing their effectiveness as action- and policy-oriented bodies,

Bearing in mind also its request that the regional commissions should continue undertaking their own assessments, as called for in General Assembly resolution 50/227, and report to the Council at its substantive session of 1997,

Taking note of the notes by the secretariat of the Commission entitled “Review of recent reforms adopted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean” and “Management pilot scheme”,¹

Reaffirming that the initiative on the pilot management scheme presented by the Commission secretariat is aimed at strengthening the role of the organization as a centre of excellence charged with collaborating with member States in a comprehensive analysis of development processes geared to the design, monitoring and evaluation of public policies and the resulting provision of operational services in the fields of specialized information, advisory services, and training and support for regional and international cooperation and coordination,

Convinced that it is essential for the United Nations, in carrying out activities in the economic, social and related fields, to take account of the regional dimension and the decentralization of tasks in accordance with the comparative advantages of its subsidiary bodies located in the developing regions,

1. Notes with satisfaction the progress made by the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in fulfilling the instructions of the Commission, as expressed in its resolution 553(XXVI), particularly with regard to institutional matters and management improvement and the coordination of activities with other organizations, in order to maintain its validity and relevance in the face of evolving circumstances that affect not only Latin American and Caribbean development, but also the United Nations;

¹ LC/G.1962 (15 April 1997) and LC/G.1964 (21 April 1997), respectively.

2. Further notes with satisfaction the work carried out by the ad hoc working group established pursuant to Commission resolution 553(XXVI) in defining priorities for all elements of the Commission work programme for the biennium 1998-1999 and the progress achieved in formulating additional strategic directions;

3. Urges the ad hoc working group, in consultation with the Executive Secretary of the Commission, to ensure that, notwithstanding the changing internal and external circumstances affecting the implementation of the work programme, the activities carried out by the secretariat of the Commission are based on the priorities established and the guidelines contained in the progress report of the ad hoc working group established pursuant to Commission resolution 553(XXVI);

4. Supports the general thrust of the management pilot scheme described in document LC/G.1964, which will be developed and described in detail and submitted for consideration and approval by States members of the Commission before its implementation, taking into account the statements made by the members of the ad hoc working group during its 2nd meeting, held in New York on 5 June 1997;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to keep members informed during the implementation phase of the management pilot scheme, through the ad hoc working group, with the aim of monitoring its effectiveness and impact on the work of the Commission;

6. Concurs with the general thrust of the secretariat's strategic proposal on deployment of human resources contained in the document on reform measures, with a view to generating, while ensuring the optimum utilization of expertise available within the Commission and the United Nations system, more effective results, in accordance with the needs and requirements of the countries of the region, for a given amount of resources by adequately altering the mix of in-house staff and outsourced expertise and services, and welcomes further consultation between the secretariat and member States on the details of such a plan prior to implementation;

7. Recommends that, as reform of the United Nations proceeds in the economic, social and related areas, a clear division of responsibilities should be established with regard to regional activities in Latin America and the Caribbean between the Commission, on the one hand, and the programmes, agencies and funds of the United Nations system and regional intergovernmental organizations, on the other, with a view to achieving appropriate coordination and mutual reinforcement in their respective activities;

8. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to continue to intensify, in the general context of the reform process of the United Nations in the economic, social and related areas, the reform measures referred to in the present resolution and in Commission resolution 553(XXVI) and to report thereon to the Commission at its next session, to be held at Aruba in April 1998.

