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A SELECTION OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
AND THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC)  
BETWEEN 1989 AND 1990 ON THE SITUATION  
OF WOMEN AND THEIR INTEGRATION INTO  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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A SELECTION OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED  
BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

44/73. CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF  
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that one of the purposes of the United Nations, as stated in Articles 1 and 55 of the Charter, is to promote universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of any kind, including distinction as to sex,

Affirming that women and men should participate equally in social, economic and political development, should contribute equally to such development and should share equally in improved conditions of life,

Recalling its resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979, by which it adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Recalling also its previous resolutions on the Convention, in particular resolution 43/100 of 8 December 1988, and taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/44 of 24 May 1989,

Recalling further the decisions taken on 7 and 8 March 1988 at the Fourth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention. 1/

Aware of the important contribution that the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women 2/ can make to eliminating all forms of discrimination against women and to achieving legal and de facto equality between women and men,

Noting the emphasis placed by the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace on ratification of and accession to the Convention,

Bearing in mind that 18 December 1989 marks the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its eighth session, 3/

Noting that the Committee agreed, in examining reports, to take due account of the different cultural and socio-economic systems of States parties to the Convention,

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1/ See CEDAW/SP/14.

2/ A/44/340-E/1989/120.

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/44/38).

1. Welcomes the ratification of or accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women by an increasing number of Member States;

2. Urges all States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so as soon as possible;

3. Emphasizes the importance of the strictest compliance by States parties with their obligations under the Convention;

4. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General 4/ and requests him to submit annually to the General Assembly a report on the status of the Convention;

5. Takes note also of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its eighth session;

6. Endorses general recommendation No. 10 of the Committee, made at its eighth session, on activities to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention, 5/ including the request that it report on the achievements of States parties and obstacles encountered by them in implementing the Convention be regularly updated, and requests that sufficient resources be provided for that purpose;

7. Urges States parties to the Convention to make all possible efforts to submit their initial as well as second and subsequent reports, on the implementation of the Convention, in accordance with article 18 thereof and with the guidelines of the Committee, and to co-operate fully with the Committee in the presentation of the reports;

8. Recognizes the special relevance of the periodic reports of States parties to the Convention to the efforts of the Commission on the Status of Women to review and appraise the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women in those countries;

9. Strongly supports the view of the Committee that the Secretary-General should accord higher priority to strengthening support for the Committee;

10. Endorses the proposal made by the Committee that a working group be convened to meet for three to five days prior to the ninth session of the Committee to prepare issues and questions relating to the second and subsequent periodic reports of the States parties to be considered at the ninth session of the Committee, 6/ and invites the Secretary-General to take the necessary action towards that end;

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4/ A/44/457.

5/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth session, Supplement No. (A/44/38), sect. V.

6/ Ibid., sect. II.B.

11. Strongly encourages the Committee to enhance its efforts to rationalize its procedures and expedite the consideration of periodic reports and to develop procedures and guidelines for the consideration of second reports;

12. Takes note of the proposals of the Secretary-General for full funding of the Committee and requests that the programme budget for 1990-1991 provide for attendance at all the Committee's meetings by relevant professional staff from the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, legal staff expert in human rights treaty implementation and adequate secretarial staff, and for the necessary facilities for the effective functioning of the Committee in order to enable it to carry out its mandate as efficiently as other human rights treaty bodies;

13. Welcomes the steps already taken by the Secretary-General and requests him, in view of the observance of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on 18 December 1989, to facilitate and encourage, within existing resources, the dissemination of information relating to the Convention and the Committee, taking into account all the relevant general recommendations made by the Committee at its eighth session, in particular general recommendation No. 10;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the report of the Committee to the Commission on the Status of Women for information;

15. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and to transmit the report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-fifth session.

78th plenary meeting  
8 December 1989



## 44/76. ELDERLY WOMEN

The General Assembly,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/38 of 24 May 1989, in which the Council requested the Commission on the Status of Women to devote particular attention to the current and future situation of elderly women in the world,

Recalling its resolution 40/30 of 29 November 1985, in which it was emphasized that the elderly must be considered an important and necessary element in the development process at all levels within a given society,

Aware that age segregation, in addition to sex stereotyping, makes the social and economic problems of elderly women even more acute, and that they are often viewed only as beneficiaries and not as contributors to development,

Also aware that statistics are an essential ingredient of planning and policy evaluation and that few statistics are available on the situation of elderly women,

1. Recommends that the United Nations and the specialized agencies take the lead in recognizing the important contributions made by older women and their potential to participate in and shape the future of their societies;

2. Reaffirms Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/38, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to organize a seminar, within available budgetary resources, to study questions arising from an in-depth analysis of the situation of women as they age, and to transmit the results of the study to the Commission on the Status of Women, under the priority theme of development, at its session in 1992, at which the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the International Plan of Action on Aging <sup>1/</sup> will also be observed;

3. Invites the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the Statistical Office of the Secretariat, in co-operation with the regional commissions, to pay specific attention to older women in their efforts to improve methodology for data-gathering on women;

4. Notes with appreciation the valuable contributions that non-governmental organizations have made in calling attention to the specific needs of elderly women and encourages them to continue to co-operate with the international community on behalf of these women;

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<sup>1/</sup> See Report of the World Assembly on Aging, Vienna, 26 July-6 August 1982 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.I.16), chap. VI, sect.A.

5. Appeals to the United Nations system to pay due attention in relevant activities to the importance of the role of elderly women, in all its interrelated aspects, as participants in political, economic, social and cultural development;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

78th plenary meeting  
8 December 1989

44/77. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAIROBI FORWARD-LOOKING  
STRATEGIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

The General Assembly,

Recalling all its relevant resolutions, in particular resolutions 40/108 of 13 December 1985, 42/62 of 30 November 1987 and 43/101 of 8 December 1988, in which inter alia, it endorsed and reaffirmed the importance of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women 1/ for the period up to the year 2000 and set out measures for their immediate implementation and for the overall achievement of the interrelated goals and objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace,

Taking into consideration the resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council on issues relating to women since its resolution 1987/18 of 26 May 1987,

Reaffirming its resolution 40/30 of 29 November 1985, in which it emphasized that the elderly must be considered an important and necessary element on the development process at all levels within a given society, and that, consequently, elderly women should be considered contributors to as well as beneficiaries of development,

Reaffirming also its determination to encourage the full participation of women in economic, social, cultural, civil and political affairs and to promote development, co-operation and international peace,

Conscious of the important and constructive contribution to the improvement of the status of women made by the Commission on the Status of Women, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations concerned,

Emphasizing once again the priority of the implementation, monitoring, review and appraisal of the Forward-looking Strategies,

Recognizing the advancement of women as one of the priorities of the Organization for the biennium 1990-1991,

Recalling that the Commission will hold in 1990 a session of extended duration to review and appraise progress in the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General; 2/

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1/ Security Council resolution 620 (1988).

2/ A/44/511.

2. Reaffirms the importance of resolutions 1, 2 and 4 adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its special session in 1987, 3/ in particular its recommendation that the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies and the status of women in general should be incorporated as one of the priorities in the introduction to the medium-term plan of the Organization for the period 1992-1997;

3. Reaffirms the urgent need for the Forward-looking Strategies to be translated immediately into concrete action by Governments, within the framework of overall national priorities, as well as by the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, the specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

4. Calls upon Member States to give priority to policies and programmes relating to the subtheme "Employment, Health and Education", in particular to literacy, for the empowerment of women, especially those in the rural areas, to meet their own needs through self-reliance and the mobilization of indigenous resources, as well as to issues relating to the role of women in economic and political decision-making, population, the environment and information;

5. Reaffirms the central role of the Commission in matters related to the advancement of women, and calls upon it to promote the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies to the year 2000 based on the goals of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace and the subtheme "Employment, Health and Education", and urges all organizations of the United Nations system to co-operate effectively with the Commission in this task;

6. Notes the preparations for the session of the Commission in 1990 to review and appraise progress in the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies;

7. Requests the Commission during its session in 1990 to consider the role of women in and their contribution to development so as to ensure adequate attention to issues concerning women in the process of preparing for the special session of the General Assembly devoted to international economic co-operation, in particular to the revitalization of economic growth and development of the developing countries, and the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade;

8. Also requests the Commission to consider at its session in 1990 the question of holding in 1995 a world conference on women, at the lowest possible cost, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session;

9. Requests the relevant United Nations bodies to continue to provide action-oriented input when reporting to the Commission on the priority themes;

10. Emphasizes, in the framework of the Forward-looking Strategies, the importance of the total integration of women in the development process, bearing

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3/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1987, supplement No.2 (E/1987/15), chap. I, sect. C.

in mind the specific and urgent needs of the developing countries, and calls upon Member States to establish specific targets at each level in order to increase the participation of women in professional, management and decision-making positions in their countries;

11. Also emphasizes the need to give urgent attention to redressing socio-economic inequities at the national and international levels as a necessary step towards the full realization of the goals and objectives of the Forward-looking Strategies;

12. Urges that particular attention be given by the United Nations and Governments take steps to ensure the equalization of opportunities for these women in the economic, social and political fields;

13. Endorses the convening in 1991 of a high-level interregional consultation on women in public life, to be financed within existing resources and from voluntary and other contributions;

14. Takes note with interest of the conclusions and recommendations of the International Seminar on Women and Rural Development: Programmes and Projects, held at Vienna from 22 to 26 May 1989; 4/

15. Requests the Secretary-General, in formulating the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001, and in integrating the Forward-looking Strategies into activities mandated by the General Assembly, to pay particular attention to the strengthening of national machineries for the advancement of women and to specific sectoral themes that cut across the three objectives, equality, development and peace, and include, in particular, literacy, education, health, population, the environment and the full participation of women in decision-making;

16. Also requests the Secretary-General to continue updating the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development, 5/ bearing in mind its importance, placing particular emphasis on the adverse impact of the difficult economic situation affecting the majority of developing countries, in particular on the condition of women, and giving special attention to worsening conditions for the incorporation of women into the labour force as well as to the impact of reduced expenditures for social services on women's opportunities for education, health and child care, and to submit a preliminary version of the updated World Survey on the Role of Women in Development to the Economic and Social Council, through the Commission, in 1993 and a final version in 1994.

17. Requests Governments, when presenting candidatures for vacancies in the Secretariat, in particular at the decision-making level, to give priority to women's candidatures when the required qualifications exist, and requests the Secretary-General in reviewing these candidatures to give special consideration to candidates from underrepresented and unrepresented countries;

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4/ See A/44/516.

5/ E/CN.6/1988/7.

18. Once again calls upon the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies to establish five-year targets at each level for the percentage of women in Professional and decision-making positions, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in order that a definite upward trend in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/206 D of 11 December 1986 may be registered with regard to the number of Professional and decision-making positions held by women by 1990, and to set additional targets every five years;

19. Requests the Secretary-General to invite Governments, organizations of the United Nations system including the regional commissions and the specialized agencies, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to report periodically to the Economic and Social Council, through the Commission, on activities undertaken at all levels to implement the Forward-looking Strategies;

20. Also requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide for the existing weekly radio programmes on women in the regular budget of the United Nations, making adequate provisions for broadcasts in different languages, and to develop the focal point for issues relating to women in the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, which, in concert with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, should provide a more effective public information programme relating to the advancement of women;

21. Further requests the Secretary-General to include in his report on the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, an assessment of recent developments that are relevant to the priority themes to be considered at the subsequent session of the Commission and to transmit to the Commission a summary of relevant views expressed by delegates during the debate in the Assembly;

22. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session on measures taken to implement the present resolution;

23. Decides to consider these questions further at its forty-fifth session under the item entitled "Forward-looking Strategies for the advancement of women to the year 2000".

78th plenary meeting  
8 December 1989

44/78. IMPROVEMENT OF THE SITUATION OF WOMEN IN RURAL AREAS

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 34/14 of 9 November 1979, in which it endorsed the Declaration of Principles and the Programme of Action as adopted by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, 1/ and other relevant resolutions,

Recalling also the importance given to the problems of rural women in the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 2/

Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/29 of 26 May 1988, in which the Council urged Governments and development agencies of the United Nations system to pay particular attention to the role of women in rural development,

Taking note with satisfaction of the results of the International Seminar on Women and Rural Development: Programmes and Projects, held at Vienna from 22 to 26 May 1989, 3/

Recognizing that the economic and financial crises in many developing countries have severely affected the socio-economic status of women, especially in rural areas,

Recognizing also the urgent need to take appropriate measures aimed at improving further the situation of women in rural areas,

1. Commends the report of the Secretary-General on national experience relating to the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas, 4/

2. Calls upon Member States to make use of the report and the main conclusions and recommendations of the International Seminar on Women and Rural Development: Programmes and Projects, contained in the annex to the report, and to endeavour to reflect them, as appropriate, in national development strategies, paying special attention, inter alia, to:

(a) Setting up or strengthening national machineries for the advancement of women in order to ensure effective execution, monitoring and evaluation of

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1/ See Report of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, Rome, 12-20 July 1979 (WCARRD/REP); transmitted to the members of the General Assembly by a note by the Secretary-General (A/34/485).

2/ Security Council resolution 620 (1988).

3/ See A/44/516.

4/ A/44/516.

national strategies in the field of rural development and, in particular, to strengthen liaison with agricultural and rural development institutions;

(b) Identifying and formulating more comprehensive priority development projects aimed at improving the situation of rural women and integrating them into national development plans at all levels;

(c) Taking measures designed to give rural women broader access to material and financial resources, that is, the provision of land, credit and loans, to promote the establishment and strengthening of rural women's associations and to encourage the development of women's co-operatives and other small enterprises;

3. Requests the organizations and funds of the United Nations system, donor organizations and countries to promote the realization of programmes and projects aimed at the improvement of the situation of rural women, and to provide, on request, training opportunities for national machineries in order to increase their effectiveness,

4. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, in consultation with Member States, a report on the implementation of the present resolutions and to submit it to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, through the Economic and Social Council.

78th plenary meeting  
8 December 1989



44/137. OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER  
FOR REFUGEES

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of his Office, 1/ as well as the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner on the work of its fortieth session, 2/ and having heard the statements made by the Officer-in-Charge of the Office of the High Commissioner on 15 and 17 November 1989, 3/

Recalling its resolution 43/117 of 8 December 1988,

Reaffirming the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner, as well as the fundamental importance of the High Commissioner's protection function and the need for States to co-operate with the High Commissioner in the exercise of this primary and essential function,

Noting with satisfaction that, following recent accessions, one hundred and six States are now parties to the 1951 Convention 4/ and the 1967 Protocol 5/ relating to the Status of Refugees,

Noting with concern that, despite developments that offer hope for solutions to refugee problems, refugees and displaced persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner continue to face, in certain situations, distressingly serious problems, including problems of protection as a result of expulsion and refoulement of refugees, their unjustified detention and measures that do not recognize their special situation,

Particularly concerned that in various regions the safety and welfare of refugees and asylum-seekers are seriously undermined on account of military or armed attacks, forced recruitment of refugees into armed forces and other forms of violence, and noting that further efforts should be made to ensure rescue and disembarkation of asylum-seekers in distress at sea and, in this context, noting also the problems relating to stowaway asylum-seekers,

Noting the efforts of the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to address the special problems and needs of refugee and displaced women and

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/44/12).

2/ Ibid., Supplement No. 12A (A/44/12/Add.1).

3/ Ibid., Forty-fourth Session, Third Committee, 44th and 47th meetings, and corrigendum.

4/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 189, No. 2545.

5/ Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

children, who in many cases are exposed to a variety of difficult situations affecting their physical and legal protection as well as their psychological and material well-being,

Emphasizing the need for States to assist, on as wide a basis as possible, the efforts of the Office of the High Commissioner in its search for durable and timely solutions to the problems of refugees based on new approaches that meet current realities and at the same time respect the basic principles and concerns of protection,

Realizing in this context that voluntary repatriation or return remains the most desirable solution to the problems facing refugees and displaced persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, and welcoming the fact that it has been possible for significant numbers of them to return voluntarily to their country of origin,

Recognizing that the promotion of fundamental human rights is essential to the achievement of self-sufficiency and family security for refugees, as well as to the process of reestablishing the dignity of the human person and realizing durable solutions to refugee problems,

Deeply concerned about the unprecedented financial crisis that the Office of the High Commissioner is currently facing,

Aware that the application of the principle of international solidarity and the search for durable solutions imply a better sharing of responsibilities and arrangements among all the agencies of the United Nations system and other concerned organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, for the implementation and the financing of related activities,

Recognizing that durable solutions for refugees\* in developing countries can, in many cases, be achieved through a development-oriented approach and that the heavy burden placed on a host country as a result of growing influxes of refugees requires sufficient resources to redress the negative impact and the strain on its socio-economic infrastructure in rural and urban areas, and emphasizing the need to ensure the compatibility of refugee aid and national development plans of developing countries of asylum,

Welcoming the conclusions and decisions on refugee aid and development adopted by the executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner at its fortieth session, 6/ in particular the request to the Office of the High Commissioner to continue its catalytic role in the area of refugee aid and development,

Commending those States which, despite severe economic and development problems of their own, continue to admit large numbers of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner into their territories,

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6/ Official records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session Supplement No. 12A (A/44/12/Add.1), para.32.

and emphasizing the need to share the burden of these States to the maximum extent possible through international assistance,

Emphasizing the need for close co-operation between the Office of the High Commissioner and relevant agencies of the United Nations system and other international organizations, both intergovernmental and non-governmental in devising and implementing specific elements of development assistance for solving problems of refugees and returnees and of areas hosting them,

Stressing the need for the international community to continue to provide adequate resettlement opportunities for those refugees for whom no other durable solution may be in sight, with particular attention being paid to those refugees who have spent an inordinately long period of time in camps and to individuals facing urgent or emergency protection situations,

Welcoming the valuable support extended by Governments to the Office of the High Commissioner in the performance of its humanitarian tasks, and recognizing the need for continuing and increasing co-operation between the Office of the High Commissioner and other bodies of the United Nations system and with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

Noting the efforts of the Office of the High Commissioner, in co-operation with the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner, including the establishment of a Working Group, to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Office, and the need to further strengthen field activities and responsibilities,

Commending the Office of the High Commissioner and its staff for the dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities, and paying tribute to those staff members who have endangered their lives in the course of their duties,

1. Strongly reaffirms the fundamental nature of the function of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to provide international protection and the need for States to co-operate fully with his Office in the fulfillment of this function, in particular by acceding to and fully and effectively implementing the relevant international and regional refugee instruments;

2. Endorses the conclusions on the implementation of the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner at its fortieth session; 7/

3. Calls upon all States to refrain from measures that jeopardize the institution of asylum, in particular the return or expulsion of refugees and asylum-seekers contrary to fundamental prohibitions against these practices, and urges States to continue to admit and receive refugees pending identification of their status and appropriate solutions to their plight;

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7/ Ibid., para.24.

4. Urges all States to establish quick and effective procedures for determining refugee status and granting asylum in accordance with internationally accepted criteria and appropriate legal guarantees, in order to deal expeditiously with manifestly unfounded claims and to protect refugees and asylum-seekers from unjustified or unduly prolonged detention or stay in camps;

5. Notes with deep concern, in this context, that large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers in different areas of the world are currently subject to detention or similar restrictive measures by reason of their illegal entry or presence in search of asylum, pending resolutions of their situation, and reiterates the conclusions on detention adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner at its thirty-seventh session, which set out the grounds for detention of such persons; 8/

6. Condemns violations of the rights and safety of refugees and asylum-seekers, in particular those perpetrated by military or armed attacks against refugee camps and settlements, forced recruitment into armed forces and other forms of violence;

7. Notes the accomplishments of the Office of the High Commissioner in the promotion and dissemination of refugee law, in particular, the organization of training courses on protection directed towards government and other concerned officials, and urges the Office to pursue its activities in this regard, making every effort to ensure that such protection training courses continue on a significant scale;

8. Endorses the conclusions on refugee children adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner at its fortieth session, 9/ in particular on the development and dissemination of the "Guidelines on Refugee Children" and the implementation of a work plan concerning refugee children that requires the active co-operation and collaboration of Governments, United Nations bodies, among them the United Nations Children's Fund, and non-governmental organizations with the Office of the High Commissioner;

9. Endorses the conclusions on refugee women adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner at its fortieth session, 10/ in which, in particular, the Executive Committee recognized the need to facilitate the participatory role of refugee women and the need for a policy framework and organizational work plan for the implementation of the next stages of bringing issues concerning refugee women into the mainstream of the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner;

10. Endorses the conclusions on durable solutions and refugee protection adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner at its fortieth session, 11/ in which the Executive Committee recognized the need

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8/ Ibid., Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 12A (A/41/12/Add.1), para. 128.

9/ Ibid., Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 12A (A/44/12/Add.1), para 26.

10/ Ibid., para.27.

11/ Ibid., para.27.

for the active promotion of solutions by the international community and by countries of origin, asylum and resettlement, in accordance with their respective obligations and responsibilities and the desirability of prevention through, inter alia, the observance of human rights, as the best solutions;

11. Recognizes the importance of attaining durable solutions to refugee problems and, in particular, the need to address in this process the root causes of refugee movements in order to avert new flows of refugees and to facilitate the solution of existing problems;

12. Approves the decision entitled, "Sharing of responsibilities for operational activities relating to refugees", adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner at its fortieth session 12/ and invites the agencies of the United Nations system as well as all other relevant international organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, to establish as soon as possible specific mechanisms of co-operation to assure an agreed division of responsibilities and arrangements for the financing of these activities, while preserving the specific mandate of the High Commissioner to provide protection;

13. Urges the member States of relevant bodies to ensure that their delegates to such bodies as the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, the World Bank and regional development banks, and multilateral agencies such as the United Nations Development Programme and the International Fund for Agricultural Development are made aware of the refugee-related conclusions of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner at its fortieth session and urges them to use their good offices to ensure the adoption of policies and the establishment of mechanisms, both institutional and financial, that will provide for co-ordinated and expeditious implementation of development initiatives related to refugees and returnees;

14. Notes with appreciation the ongoing work being done by the Office of the High Commissioner to put into practice the concept of development-oriented assistance to refugees and returnees, as initiated at the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa 13/ and reaffirmed in the Oslo Declaration and Plan of Action adopted by the International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa, 14/ as well as in the Declaration and Concerted Plan of Action in favour of Central American Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons adopted by the International Conference on Central American Refugees, held at Guatemala City from 29 to 31 May 1989, 15/ urges the Office to continue that process wherever appropriate, in full co-operation with appropriate international agencies, and urges the Governments to support these efforts, being fully aware of the catalytic role of the Office of the High Commissioner;

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12/ Ibid., para 33.

13/ See A/41/572.

14/ See A/43/717 and Corr. 1 and Add.1.

15/ A/44/527 and Corr. 1 and 2.

15. Recognizes the importance of the International Conference on Indo-Chinese Refugees, held at Geneva on 13 and 14 June 1989, and the Comprehensive Plan of Action adopted at that Conference, 16/ as well as the International Conference on Central American Refugees and the Concerted Plan of Action in favour of Central American Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons;

16. Urges all States to support the Office of the High Commissioner in its search for durable solutions to the problem of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the Office, primarily through voluntary repatriation or return, with assistance to returnees as appropriate, and wherever appropriate, through integration into countries of asylum or through resettlement in third countries;

17. Expresses its deep appreciation for the valuable material and humanitarian response of receiving countries, in particular those developing countries which, despite limited resources, continue to admit, on a permanent or temporary basis, large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers;

18. Urges the international community, in accordance with the principle of international solidarity and in the spirit of burden-sharing, to assist the countries referred to in paragraph 17 of the present resolution in order to enable them to cope with the additional burden that the care for refugees and asylum-seekers represents;

19. Endorses the conclusions and decisions on assistance activities adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner at its fortieth session, 17/ which reflect the gravity of the financial crisis that the Office of the High Commissioner is facing at present;

20. Calls upon all Governments to contribute to the High Commissioner's programmes and, taking into account the need to achieve greater burden-sharing among donors, to assist the High Commissioner in securing additional income from traditional governmental sources, other Governments and the private sector in order to ensure that the needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner are met.

82nd plenary meeting  
15 December 1989

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16/ A/44/523.

17/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No.12A (A/44/12/Add.1), paras. 30 and 31.

## 44/171. INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 40/204 of 17 December 1985 on the effective mobilization and integration of women in development, in which it requested the Secretary-General to update the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development on a regular basis,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1986/64 of 23 July 1986 concerning the approach to be taken in updating the world survey and General Assembly resolution 42/178 of 11 December 1987, and taking note of Council resolutions 1989/106 of 27 July 1989 on the effective mobilization and integration of women in development and 1989/105 of 27 July 1989 on system-wide co-ordination of activities to advance the status of women and to integrate women in development,

Stressing the need for the operational activities for development of the United Nations system to take fully into account the position of women, and recognizing the catalytic role played by the United Nations Development Fund for Women,

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women 1/ and stressing that activities for the integration of women in development should take into account the relevant recommendations contained therein,

Taking note of the 1989 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development 2/ and the report of the Secretary-General on the effective mobilization and integration of women in development, 3/

Recognizing the contribution of new concepts and methods in collection of statistics on women, which enhance the depth and coverage of the analysis,

Bearing in mind that the world survey, as a fundamental assessment of the progress or lack of progress in the advancement of women, should constitute the

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1/ 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.

2/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.89.IV.2.

3/ A/44/290-A/1989/105.

basic documentation for the world conference on women envisaged in the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 4/

Recognizing that for many women, particularly in developing countries, the evolution of the economic and social situation during the 1980s has not resulted in the benefits anticipated at the beginning of the decade,

Recognizing also the significant contribution women make to economic activity and the major force they represent for change and development in all sectors of the economy, especially in key areas such as agriculture, industry and services, and convinced that the development process should seek to improve and facilitate their participation in all areas of the economy,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to distribute the 1989 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development, 5/ especially to national machineries for the advancement of women, ministries concerned with economic policy and universities;

2. Invites Governments to take into account, as appropriate, the recommendations contained in the 1989 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development in designing national policies for development, adjustment and economic reform;

3. Considers that the economic role and potential of women should be taken into account fully in the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session an annotated outline of the next regular update of the world survey and requests that the completed update be submitted to the Assembly at its forty-ninth session, through the Economic and Social Council and in co-operation with the organizations of the United Nations system, in a timely manner in order to allow its proper consideration;

5. Requests that the next edition of the world survey, taking into account the recommendations contained in the 1989 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development, address the impact on women of the prevailing economic conditions in developing countries and identify obstacles to women's economic role in key areas of development, with particular focus on the socio-economic aspects of emerging trends with respect to women and education, health, population, income distribution, employment and the environment, as well as the participation of women in economic and political decision-making and their economic role at the national, regional and international levels, and that it contain proposals for concerted national, regional and international action to enhance the role of women as development agents and beneficiaries;

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4/ 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.

5/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.89.IV.2.



6. Requests the Secretary-General, in updating the world survey, to ensure that its preparation is co-ordinated with that of the World Economic Survey, the medium-term plan and the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development;

7. Also requests the Secretary-General to continue to develop gender disaggregated data and indicators concerning the role of women in development, including regular updates of the United Nations Women's Indicators and Statistics Data Base, at two-year intervals; in this context, particular attention should be given to economic statistics that take into account the remunerated and unremunerated contribution of women to development and to including the informal sector in the new systems of national accounts and balances to reflect adequately women's activities and ensuring that relevant studies and documents produced by the United Nations system contain such data;

8. Calls upon the organization of the United Nations system to assist Governments, at their request, in monitoring the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women;

9. Calls upon the United Nations system, under its operational activities for development, to ensure that it will collect and report gender disaggregated data covering national and international project personnel, including consultants, as well as beneficiaries of its programmes;

10. Requests the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation to include in his 1991 report on operational activities for development of the United Nations system a separate chapter on United Nations efforts to integrate women in development, both as a mainstream and specific activity of the United Nations system, and with particular attention to literacy, education, health, population, environment, employment and participation in decision-making;

11. Requests the Commission on the Status of Women to take the present resolution into account when reviewing, at its extended session in 1990, progress made in implementing the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies.

83rd plenary meeting  
19 December 1989

## 44/213. DEVELOPING HUMAN RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENT

The General Assembly,

Affirming that the human being is at the centre of all development activities,

Recognizing that human resources development is a broad concept encompassing many components and requiring integrated and concerted strategies, policies, plans and programmes to ensure the development of the full potential of human beings,

Recalling resolution 40/213 of 17 December 1985 on the role of qualified national personnel in the social and economic development of developing countries,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolutions 1986/73 of 23 July 1986 and 1987/81 of 8 July 1987 on the development of human resources,

Emphasizing that education and the acquisition and upgrading of skills, as well as continued technical training, are inextricably linked to the economic growth and sustained development of all countries, in particular developing countries,

Stressing the importance of international co-operation in supporting and strengthening the development of human resources in developing countries and, in this context, stressing also the valuable role that technical co-operation, particularly among developing countries, can play,

Deeply concerned that the negative impact of the international economic situation of the 1980s on developing countries and the resulting adjustment measures have led to significant cuts in national expenditures, including expenditures in sectors crucial to the development of human resources, and in this regard, that prolonged reduction of investment in human resources development will have grave implications for sustained growth and development,

1. Endorses Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/120 of 28 July 1989 on the development of human resources;

2. Welcomes the contributions to the elaboration of the concept of human resources development made by the Khartoum Declaration: Towards a Human-focused Approach to Socio-economic Recovery and Development in Africa, 1/ the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the Region of the Economic and

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1/ A/43/430, annex I.

Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, 2/ the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-Economic Recovery and Transformation, 3/ and the communiqué of the tenth Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, held at Grand Anse, Grenada, from 3 to 7 July 1989; 4/

3. Emphasizes that efforts for human resources development should optimize all means for the overall development of human beings so that they may, individually and collectively, be capable of improving their standard of living;

4. Also emphasizes that it is within the context of the objective that economic growth and sustained development should be pursued, and that human resources development in itself is a specific means to achieve specific economic goals;

5. Further emphasizes the need to continue to strengthen and expand human resources base of developing countries in order to enable them to face the challenges of development and accelerated technological change so as to achieve sustained development;

6. Stresses the need for demand-oriented strategies for human resources in order to encourage programmes aimed at inspiring people to upgrade their knowledge and skills and making it possible for them to fulfil their aspirations, and, in this context, also stresses the need to pay attention to employment constraints that affect the most vulnerable groups;

7. Further stresses the critical importance of developing human resources at all levels and strengthening the scientific and technological capabilities of developing countries in order to overcome present economic challenges and to take advantage of the opportunities unfolding in the world economy;

8. Reaffirms that education and training of nationals, including the most vulnerable groups, are an integral and the most important part of human resources development, and emphasizes that the flow of resources to developing countries for these activities needs to be increased;

9. Stresses the need for human resources development strategies to encompass supportive measures in such vital and related areas as health, nutrition, water, sanitation, housing and population;

10. Also stresses that the public sector is an essential element in the growth and development of developing countries and that, therefore, in the process of making the public sector more effective, it is desirable that efforts be made to foster new and productive employment opportunities so as to minimize any adverse impact on overall employment levels;

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2/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1988, Supplement No. 11 (E/1988/35), chap.IV, resolution 274(XLIV).

3/ A/44/315.

4/ A/44/477.

11. Further stresses that policies, plans and programmes for human resources development in developing countries should focus, inter alia, on generating employment in all sectors, including self-employment and entrepreneurship;

12. Emphasizes the need, in formulating strategies and programmes for human resources development, to intensify efforts for the full integration of women in the development process and to create opportunities for them, as well as to intensify efforts for the full integration of, and to create opportunities for, youth and the poor in the development process, both as beneficiaries and as agents of development;

13. Also emphasizes the importance of human resources development in enhancing the endogenous capacity-building of the developing countries in the fields of science and technology;

14. Further emphasizes the vital importance of qualified nationals in enhancing capacity-building in developing countries and, in this context, calls upon the international community to pay due attention to the serious problem of the brain drain from developing countries;

15. Agrees that internationally supported structural adjustment programmes should be designed and formulated to have, inter alia, a positive impact on human resources development in developing countries;

16. Calls upon the international community, including the multilateral financial and development institutions, to support the efforts of developing countries in human resources development, taking into account the national priorities and plans of those countries, through, inter alia, operational activities of the United Nations system;

17. Invites the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole for the Preparation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade to take the present resolution into account in the formulation of the new strategy;

18. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session a report on human resources development, including an assessment of the negative impact of the current economic situation facing developing countries on their efforts for human resources development, recommendations for policy measures to promote human resources development in developing countries and ways and means of increasing the support of the international community, in particular developed countries, for human resources development in developing countries, taking into account, inter alia, the report requested by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1989/120 and the results of the World Conference on Education for All, to be held at Bangkok in March 1990.

85th plenary meeting  
22 December 1989

44/233. PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF ACQUIRED  
IMMUNODEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 43/15 of 27 October 1988, other relevant resolutions and the London Declaration on AIDS Prevention adopted by the World Summit of Ministers of Health Programmes for AIDS Prevention on 28 January 1988 1/ and taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/108 of 27 July 1989, World Health Assembly resolutions WHA42.20 of 17 May 1989 and WHA 42.33 and WHA 42.34 of 19 May 1989 2/ and the discussions of the Fifth International Conference on AIDS, held at Montreal, Canada, from 4 to 9 June 1989,

Acknowledging the established leadership of the World Health Organization in directing and co-ordinating AIDS education, prevention, control and research,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the public and private sector, in combating the spread of AIDS,

Welcoming, in particular, the World Health Organization Global Programme on AIDS, and noting that the World Health Organization/United Nations Development Programme Alliance to Combat AIDS is facilitating the implementation at the country level of the global strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS,

Recalling the resolutions of the General Assembly, the World Health Assembly and the Economic and Social Council concerning the need to respect the human rights and dignity of all people, including those affected by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), their families and those with whom they live,

Reaffirming that the struggle against AIDS should be consistent with and divert neither attention nor resources from other national public health priorities and development goals and should not divert international efforts and resources needed for overall health priorities,

Aware that AIDS can have serious social and economic consequences, particularly in countries with a high incidence of infection from HIV and limited public health services and other developmental resources.

Recognizing that, depending upon individual and social circumstances, women and children may be at a higher risk of infection from HIV than previously recognized and may otherwise suffer deprivation as a consequence of the indirect impact of AIDS on their families and communities,

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1/ A/43/341-E/1988/80, appendix I.

2/ See World Health Organization, Forty-second World Health Assembly, Geneva, 8-19 May 1989, Resolutions and Decisions, Annexes WHA42/1989/REC/1).

Emphasizing the crucial importance of a supportive socio-economic environment in ensuring the effective implementation of national AIDS prevention programmes and the humane care of affected persons,

Recognizing the need for all sectors of society to contribute actively to the local, national and international efforts for HIV/AIDS prevention and control,

Noting that scientific research is making progress in the development of improved diagnostic, therapeutic and preventive technologies and pharmaceuticals, and stressing the importance of making these technologies and pharmaceuticals available as soon as possible and at an affordable cost,

1. Takes note of the report of the Director-General of the World Health Organization on the global strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS and the supplementary report on activities and programmes being carried out by United Nations entities on the socio-economic and humanitarian aspects of AIDS; 3/

2. Notes with appreciation and welcomes the arrangements made by the Secretary-General, in close co-operation with the Director-General of the World Health Organization, to ensure a co-ordinated response by the United Nations system to the AIDS pandemic pursuant to General Assembly resolution 43/15 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1989/108;

3. Requests the Secretary-General, in view of the potentially serious implications of the AIDS pandemic for socio-economic development in some developing countries, to intensify his efforts, in collaboration with the Director-General of the World Health Organization, all other relevant organizations of the United Nations system, and the World Health Organization/United Nations Development Programme Alliance to Combat AIDS, to mobilize the technical and other relevant resources of the United Nations system, at all levels, including at the regional and country levels, through co-ordinated research and programmes, to deal with this aspect of the problem;

4. Urges Member States to increase their efforts to combat AIDS and to encourage, support and facilitate national efforts to prevent the further spread of AIDS;

5. Calls upon Governments, the World Health Organization, all other relevant United Nations organizations and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to promote greater awareness about the transmission of the pandemic in order to avoid misconceptions as much as possible and to increase the understanding of the general public towards people affected by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV);

6. Calls upon international, national and research institutions and organizations to co-ordinate their activities so as to provide input to and be supportive of the policy of national AIDS committees and the global AIDS strategy

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3/ A/44/274-E/1989/75, and A/44/274/Add.1-E/1989/75/Add.1.

of the World Health Organization in a manner appropriate to local conditions and requirements;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to invite the Director-General of the World Health Organization, in close collaboration with the other organizations of the United Nations system and without prejudice to ongoing priorities and programmes, to continue to develop and advance the global strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS, and specifically:

(a) To promote the contribution of non-governmental organizations to the global strategy through support of national efforts;

(b) To collaborate, as appropriate, with the United Nations Office at Vienna, the United Nations Children's Fund and other United Nations bodies, as well as Governments and non-governmental organizations in their efforts to develop:

(i) Policies, programmes and research proposals to address the impact of AIDS, including issues affecting women, and to promote the vital role of women in preventing and controlling the pandemic;

(ii) Policies and programmes to alleviate the impact of AIDS, in all its aspects, on children;

(iii) Policies and programmes to combat the illicit traffic in and abuse of drugs, with a view to contributing to a reduction in the spread of HIV infection;

(c) To promote access of all peoples to appropriate preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic technologies and pharmaceuticals and to help make these technologies and pharmaceuticals available at an affordable cost;

(d) To promote the active participation of public and private sector enterprises, including through financial contributions, in HIV/AIDS prevention and control efforts at the local, national and international levels;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to invite the Director-General of the World Health Organization to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the present resolution.

85th plenary meeting  
22 December 1989

## 44/238. WORLD DECADE FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 41/187 of 8 December 1986, in which it proclaimed the period 1988-1997 the World Decade for Cultural Development, to be observed under the auspices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/107 of 27 July 1989,

Recognizing the importance of cultural development based on the affirmation and enrichment of the cultural identities of all countries and its close relationship to overall development,

Welcoming the progress made by Member States and by non-governmental organizations in developing activities within the framework of the Decade,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General and of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the progress of the World Decade for Cultural Development during the period 1988-1989; 1/

2. Invites Member States that have not yet done so to establish national committees for the Decade and otherwise to strengthen their efforts to implement the Plan of Action for the Decade; 2/

3. Expresses its appreciation to those countries that have provided voluntary contributions in the form of consultant services to the secretariat of the Decade, and encourages other countries, international organizations and other organizations to make voluntary contributions in support of the Decade;

4. Invites the organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to continue their efforts to develop activities within the framework of the Decade, in accordance with directives of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination; 3/

5. Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to strengthen co-ordination of the activities undertaken by the organizations and programmes of the United Nations system in support of the Decade;

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1/ A/44/284-E/1989/109.

2/ E/1986/L.30.

3/ ACC/1988/2/Add.3, sect.I.C.



6. Emphasizes the importance of taking the cultural dimension of development into account in the elaboration of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade and in the working documents for the special session of the General Assembly devoted to international economic co-operation, in particular the revitalization of economic growth and development of the developing countries, to be held in 1990;

7. Reaffirms its support for the recommendations of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women 4/ aimed at promoting women's participation in the World Decade for Cultural Development, in particular, those relating to better integration and promotion of women in the objectives of the Decade;

8. Requests the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to obtain the views of Governments, appropriate organs and organizations of the United Nations system and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on the objectives and scope of the global review for the purpose of evaluation, as recommended in paragraph 92 of the report of the Secretary-General and the Director-General on the Decade, 5/ and to submit those views to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, through the Economic and Social Council;

9. Expresses its support for the recommendation in paragraph 92 of the report of the Secretary-General and the Director-General for the conduct of an evaluation at the mid-point of the Decade, in 1993, under the auspices of the United Nations and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in order to evaluate the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Decade;

10. Requests the Secretary-General and the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session a report on the progress of the Decade for the period 1990-1991.

85th plenary meeting  
22 December 1989

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4/ 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.

5/ A/44/284-E/1989/109.

## 45/114. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Date: 14 December 1990  
 Adopted without a vote

Meeting: 68  
 Report: A/45/756

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 40/36 of 29 November 1985 on domestic violence and resolution 6 adopted by the Seventh United Nations Congress of the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held at Milan, Italy, from 26 August to 6 September 1985, 1/ concerning the fair treatment of women by the criminal justice system,

Taking into account the recommendations made at the Expert Group Meeting on violence in the family, held at Vienna from 8 to 12 December 1986,

Also taking into account the recommendations made at the Expert Group Meeting on violence in the family, held at Vienna from 8 to 12 December 1986,

Also taking into account the recommendations made on the subject of domestic violence by the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, held at Nairobi from 15 to 26 July 1985, 2/ the resolution on domestic violence against women submitted to the Second Committee of the Conference, and the recommendations and conclusions arising from the first review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000, 3/

Commending the efforts of the United Nations, inter alia, through the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women 4/ and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 5/ to guarantee the human rights of women and children,

Recognizing the need for further work to be undertaken with respect to violence against all members of the family unit,

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1/ See Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Milan, 26 August-6 September 1985: report prepared by the Secretariat (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.IV.1). chap. I, sect.E

2/ 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).

3/ E/CN.6/1990/5.

4/ Resolution 34/180.

5/ Resolution 44/25.

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on domestic violence, 6/

Recalling that, in its resolution 44/82 of 8 December 1989, it proclaimed 1994 the International Year of the Family,

Bearing in mind the serious lack of information and research on domestic violence globally and the need for exchange of information on ways of dealing with this problem,

Recognizing the concern of Member States about domestic violence as an urgent problem deserving focused attention and concerted action,

Aware that domestic violence is a critical problem that has serious physical and psychological effects on individual family members and that jeopardizes the health and survival of the family unit,

Recognizing that domestic violence may take many forms, both physical and psychological,

Convinced of the necessity to improve the situation of the victims of domestic violence,

Recognizing the need to focus on all victims of domestic violence and to consider common policies and specialized approaches regarding women, children, the elderly and those especially vulnerable because of disability,

Noting that the effects of exposure to domestic violence, especially during childhood, may produce long-term effects or attitudes and behavior, including increased tolerance to violence in society as a whole,

Aware of the fact that many offenders, including many of the victims and those convicted of offence relating to domestic violence, were themselves abused as children,

Recognizing the fact that domestic violence is often a recurring phenomenon and that an effective early response, as part of a crime prevention policy, may prevent the occurrence of future incidents,

Convinced that the problem of domestic violence is prevalent and affects all segments of society regardless of class, income, culture, gender, age or religion,

Conscious that the complex problem of domestic violence is viewed differently in various cultures of different countries and that at the international level it must be addressed with sensitivity to the cultural context in each country,

1. Urges Member States to begin or continue to explore, develop and implement multidisciplinary policies, measures and strategies, within and outside of the criminal justice system, with respect to domestic violence in all its facets, including legal, law enforcement, judicial, societal, educational, psychological, economic, health-related and correctional aspects and, in particular:

- (a) To take all possible steps to prevent domestic violence;
- (b) To ensure fair treatment of and effective assistance to the victims of domestic violence;
- (c) To increase awareness and sensitivity concerning domestic violence, in particular by fostering the education of criminal justice and other professionals in regard to this issue;
- (d) To provide appropriate treatment for the offenders;

2. Recommends that Member States ensure that their systems of criminal justice and the competent bodies for juveniles and their families provide an effective and equitable response to domestic violence and that they take appropriate steps towards achieving this goal;

3. Urges Member States to exchange information, experience and research findings between governmental and non-governmental organizations regarding domestic violence and, in so doing, recommend the use of the United Nations Criminal Justice Information Network and other available means to facilitate the exchange of information concerning domestic violence and the means of curtailing it;

4. Invites Member States, the Secretary-General and concerned intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to include the problem of domestic violence in the preparation for and observance of the International Year of the Family, within the crime prevention and criminal justice area;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to convene a working group of experts, within existing or with extrabudgetary resources, to formulate guidelines or a manual for practitioners concerning the problem of domestic violence for consideration at the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and its regional preparatory meetings, taking into account the conclusions of the report of the Secretary-General on the prevention of domestic violence; 7/

6. Requests the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control to consider placing the topic of domestic violence on the agenda of the Ninth United Nations Congress as a matter of priority.

Recalling also that the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held at Havana from 27 August to 7

September 1990, adopted resolutions entitled "Organized crime" and "Prevention and control of organized crime", 8/

Recalling further General Assembly resolution S-17/2 of 23 February 1990,

Convinced of the need to strengthen international co-operation in combating organized crime,

Noting with appreciation that the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders explored the possibilities and ways of strengthening further international co-operation in combating organized crime and adopted guidelines for the prevention and control of organized crime, as well as model treaties relating to it, 9/

1. Urges Member States to give favourable consideration to the implementation of the guidelines for the prevention and control of organized crime at both national and international levels;

2. Invites Member States to make available to the Secretary-General, on request, the provisions of their legislation relating to money laundering, the tracing, monitoring and forfeiture of the proceeds of crime and the monitoring of large-scale cash transactions and other measures so that they may be made available to Member States desiring to enact or further develop legislation in these fields;

3. Requests the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control to consider ways of strengthening international co-operation in combating organized crime, taking due account of the opinions of Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations as well as opinions expressed at and decisions taken by the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, and to submit its views, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to include activities related to organized crime of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme in the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control; 10/

5. Calls upon Member States, international organizations and interested non-governmental organizations to co-operate with the United Nations in organizing the International Seminar on Organized Crime Control, to be held in Moscow in October 1991.

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8/ See A/CONF.148, part one, chap. I, sect.C.

9/ See A/CONF.144, chap. IV.C.1.

10/ See E/1990/39.

45/124. CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF  
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

Date: 14 December 1990  
Adopted without a vote

Meeting: 68  
Report: A/45/757

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that one of the purposes of the United Nations, as stated in Articles 1 and 55 of the Charter, is to promote universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of any kind, including distinction as to sex,

Affirming that women and men should participate equally in social, economic and political development, should contribute equally to such development and should share equally in improved conditions of life,

Recalling its resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979, by which it adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Recalling also its previous resolutions on the Convention, as well as Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/17 of 24 May 1990,

Taking note of resolution 34/6 of 8 March 1990, adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women, 1/

Taking note also of the decisions taken on 6 February 1990 at the Fifth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention,

Aware of the important contribution that the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women 2/ can make to eliminating all forms of discrimination against women and to achieving legal and de facto equality between women and men,

Noting the emphasis placed by the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, on the ratification of and accession to the Convention,

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1/ See E/1990/25, chap. I, sect. C; for the final text, see Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1990, Supplement No. 5.

2/ 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 1990 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its ninth session, 3/

Noting that the Committee agreed, in examining reports, to take due account of the different cultural and socio-economic systems of States parties to the Convention,

Recalling that in article 17, paragraph 9, of the Convention the Secretary-General is required to provide the necessary staff and facilities for the effective performance of the functions of the Committee,

Recalling also its resolution 44/73 of 8 December 1989 in which, inter alia, it strongly supported the view of the Committee that the Secretary-General should accord higher priority to strengthening support of the Committee,

Welcoming the general recommendations contained in the reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its seventh, 4/ eighth 5/ and ninth sessions, 6/

1. Welcomes the ratification of or accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women by an increasing number of Member States;

2. Urges all States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so as soon as possible;

3. Emphasizes the importance of the strictest compliance by States parties with their obligations under the convention;

4. Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General 7/ and requests him to submit annually to the General Assembly a report on the status of the Convention;

5. Also takes note of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its ninth session; 8/

6. Invites States parties to the Convention to make all possible efforts to submit their initial as well as second and subsequent periodic reports on the implementation of the Convention, in accordance with article 18 thereof and with the guidelines provided by the Committee, and to co-operate fully with the Committee in the presentation of their reports;

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3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 38 and corrigendum (A/45/38 and Corr.1).

4/ Ibid., Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/43/38).

5/ Ibid., Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/44/38).

6/ Ibid., Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 38 and corrigendum (A/45/38 and Corr.1).

7/ A/45/426.

8/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 38 and corrigendum (A/45/38 and Corr.1).

7. Welcomes the efforts made by the Committee to rationalize its procedures and expedite the consideration of periodic reports and to develop procedures and guidelines for the consideration of second and subsequent periodic reports, and strongly encourages the Committee to continue those efforts,

8. Welcomes also, in accordance with the Committee's general recommendation No. 11, 9/ the initiatives taken to provide regional training courses on the preparation and drafting of reports of States parties for government officials and training and information seminars for States considering acceding to the Convention, and urges the relevant organs and organizations of the United Nations to support such initiatives;

9. Recognizes the special relevance of the periodic reports of States parties to the Convention to the efforts of the Commission on the Status of Women to review and appraise the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women 10/ in those countries;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to continue its efforts to provide secretariat staff, including legal staff members expert in human rights treaty implementation, and technical resources for the effective performance of the functions of the Committee;

11. Strongly supports the view of the Committee that the Secretary-General should accord higher priority within existing resources to strengthening technical and substantive support for the Committee, in particular to assist in preparatory research;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to undertake a comprehensive review of the resources available and necessary to ensure adequate support to the Committee and to the effective implementation of all other aspects of the programme on advancement of women, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

13. Welcomes the establishment of the pre-session working group of the Committee to consider second and subsequent periodic reports, which should greatly expedite the work of the Committee, and urges that this practice be continued, within the regular budget allocation;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide, facilitate and encourage, within existing resources, the dissemination of public information relating to the Committee, its recommendations, the Convention and the concept of legal literacy, taking into account the Committee's own recommendations to that end;

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9/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/44/38), sect.V.

10/ 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 1990 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect.A.



15. Recommends that meetings of the Committee should be scheduled, whenever possible, to allow for the timely transmission of the results of its work to the Commission on the Status of Women, for information, in the same year;

16. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and to transmit the report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-sixth session.

## 45/126. WOMEN AND LITERACY

Date: 14 December 1990  
 Adopted without a vote

Meeting: 68  
 Report: A/45/758

The General Assembly,

Recalling that in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1/ and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 2/ the inalienable right of every individual to education is recognized,

Recalling also the special references to and recommendations on women's needs in relation to literacy, education and training contained in paragraphs 163 to 173 of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the year 2000, 3/

Recalling further Commission on the Status of Women resolution 34/8 on women and literacy. 4/

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/15 of 24 May 1990, the annex to which contains the recommendations and conclusions arising from the first review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in which, inter alia, it is recommended that Governments should make special efforts to remove all gender-related differences in adult literacy by the year 2000 and that programmes should be established to ensure that parents and teachers provide equal educational opportunities for girls and boys,

Noting that in the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women, 5/ States parties, inter alia, committed themselves to take actions to ensure equal access to education for women and men,

Recalling its resolutions 42/104 of 7 December 1987, by which it proclaimed 1990 as International Literacy Year, and 44/127 of 15 December 1989, in which it called for continuing international efforts to promote literacy,

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1/ Resolution 217 A (III).

2/ See resolution 2200 A (XXI).

3/ 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. 1, sect. A.

4/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1990, Supplement No. 5 (E/1990/25), chap. I, sect. C.

5/ Resolution 34/180.

Recalling also the World Declaration on Education for All adopted by the World Conference on Education for All, held at Chomtien, Thailand, in 1990, in which it is recognized that literacy programmes are indispensable to the basic learning needs of all and that the most urgent priority is to ensure access to, and improve the quality of, education for girls and women and to remove every obstacle that hampers their active participation,

Mindful of Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/12 of 24 May 1990, in which it recommended that a world conference on women be held in 1995,

Taking note of the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s, 6/ adopted by the World Summit for Children, in which, inter alia, the adoption of measures was called for that emphasized the need to improve the current disparities between girls and boys in access to basic education and the need to reduce adult illiteracy by half, with an emphasis on female illiteracy, before the year 2000,

Mindful of the fact that the eradication of illiteracy, including illiteracy among women, is one of the paramount objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 7/

Recognizing that in many countries there is a significant gap between enrolment and retention levels of girls and boys in basic education programmes, just as there is a gap in literacy between adult men and women, which denies women of all ages the opportunity to participate fully in national development activities,

Bearing in mind that increased literacy levels have already been directly associated with reduced population growth in many parts of the world and that the promotion of women's literacy is an important element in ensuring the success of national objectives relating to population,

1. Notes with appreciation the commendable work done in conjunction with international Literacy Year by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its Plan of Action for the Eradication of Illiteracy by the Year 2000, 8/ the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Development Programme;

2. Commends those Governments that have launched national programmes aimed at meeting the objectives of the Year;

3. Notes with satisfaction the active involvement of many non-governmental organizations in the Year and, in particular, the establishment of the International Task Force on Literacy;

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6/ See A/45/625.

7/ Resolution 45/199.

8/ See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Records of the General Conference, Twenty-fifth Session, vol. I, Resolutions, p. 71

4. Encourages the Secretary-General and Member States, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to continue to support efforts to increase literacy by:

(a) Improving the educational opportunities for females of all ages, particularly children;

(b) Providing basic education to all without discrimination based on gender and in settings that are accessible and culturally acceptable;

(c) Encouraging the development of gender-specific indicators and measurements for assessing the impact of educational and training efforts in both domestic and international projects and programmes and for assessing the inclusion and participation of women of all ages in those efforts;

5. Also encourages Member States to attempt to disaggregate by gender data in such areas as school enrolment, completion, participation and repetition rates;

6. Urges Member States to eliminate de jure and de facto barriers to schooling for women of all ages;

7. Calls upon Member States to give special attention and emphasis to the guidelines and recommendations developed for the Year when implementing measures to eliminate illiteracy;

8. Encourages the Secretary-General, in collaboration with relevant United Nations organizations, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Development Programme to assist Member States in strengthening strategies to target resources to women of all ages, especially those most disadvantaged, and thereby work towards the elimination of illiteracy of women of all ages;

9. Calls upon Member States to accelerate the participation of women in literacy programmes, particularly in areas pertaining to the improvement of their socio-economic condition, including legal literacy and income-generating and skill-building activities;

10. Encourages Member States to increase the number of tutors and trainers with the necessary qualifications, to maximize their efforts to reach women and to increase the participation of non-governmental and private volunteer organizations, particularly women's organizations, in the implementation and management of literacy programmes and in policy and programme development;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare for the world conference on women in 1995 a report on the progress to increase female literacy made by Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the specialized agencies, regional commissions and other organizations of the United Nations system;

12. Requests the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to pay particular attention to measures taken by Governments to increase female literacy through, particularly, ensuring equal access to basic education for girls and boys;

13. Requests the Secretary-General in his next update to the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development to examine specifically the relationship between the literacy of women and their economic and social advancement.

## 45/127. INTERREGIONAL CONSULTATION ON WOMEN IN PUBLIC LIFE

Date: 14 December 1990  
 Adopted without a vote

Meeting: 68  
 Report: A/45/758

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 44/77 of 8 December 1989, in which it endorsed the convening in 1991 of an interregional consultation on women in public life,

Concerned that the level of participation by women in decision-making in almost all countries is exceedingly low,

Stressing the importance of women's full participation in the political process at all levels, especially in top decision-making, as a means of achieving the objectives set in the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 1/

Considering that the consultation is an important event towards the preparations for the 1995 world conference on women,

1. Decides that the consultation on women in public life should be an intergovernmental meeting;

2. Urges all Governments to participate actively in the consultation and for that purpose to designate as participants women who currently hold leadership position in government and national institutions and organizations or are considered to have the potential for high public office;

3. Invites Governments and national institutions and organizations to provide extrabudgetary resources to facilitate preparations for the consultation, especially for the participation of least developed countries and for the dissemination in the mass media of information about the consultation;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to take steps to ensure the necessary servicing and support of the consultation and to transmit its conclusions in a report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

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1/ 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.IX.10), chap. I, sect. A.

45/129. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAIROBI FORWARD-LOOKING  
STRATEGIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Date: 14 December 1990  
Adopted without a vote

Meeting: 68  
Report: A/45/758

The General Assembly,

Recalling all its relevant resolutions, in particular resolution 43/101 of 8 December 1988, in which, inter alia, it endorsed the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women <sup>1/</sup> for the period up to the year 2000 and set out measures for their immediate implementation and for the overall achievement of the interrelated goals and objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace,

Taking into consideration the resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council on issues relating to women since its resolution 1987/18 of 26 May 1987,

Reaffirming its resolution 40/30 of 29 November 1985, in which it emphasized that the elderly must be considered an important and necessary element in the development process at all levels within a given society and that, consequently, elderly women should be considered contributors to as well as beneficiaries of development,

Reaffirming also its determination to encourage the full participation of women in economic, social, cultural, civil and political affairs and to promote development, co-operation and international peace,

Conscious of the important and constructive contribution to the improvement of the status of women made by the Commission on the Status of Women, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations concerned,

Emphasizing once again the priority of the implementation, monitoring, review and appraisal of the Forward-looking Strategies,

Recognizing the advancement of women as one of the priorities of the Organization for the biennium 1990-1991,

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<sup>1/</sup> 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.

Recalling that the Commission held in 1990 a session of extended duration to review and appraise progress in the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General concerning the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women; 2/
2. Also takes note of the recommendations and conclusions arising from the first review and appraisal of the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies annexed to Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/15 of 24 May 1990;
3. Urges Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to implement those recommendations and conclusions;
4. Reaffirms paragraph 2 of the recommendations and conclusions, in which it is stated that the pace of implementation of the Strategies must be improved in the crucial last decade of the twentieth century since the cost to societies of failing to implement the Forward-looking Strategies would be high in terms of slowed economic and social development, misuse of human resources and reduced progress for society as a whole and, for that reason, immediate steps should be taken to remove the most serious obstacles to the implementation of the Strategies;
5. Calls again upon Member States to give priority to policies and programmes relating to the sub-theme "Employment, health and education", in particular to literacy, for the empowerment of women, especially those in the rural areas, to meet their own needs through self-reliance and the mobilization of indigenous resources, as well as to issues relating to the role of women in economic and political decision-making, population, environment and information;
6. Reaffirms the central role of the Commission on the Status of Women in matters related to the advancement of women, and calls upon the Commission to continue promoting the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies to the year 2000, based on the goals of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace and the subtheme "Employment, Health and Education", and urges all organizations of the United Nations system to co-operate effectively with the Commission in this task;
7. Requests the Commission, when considering the priority theme under development during its thirty-fifth and subsequent sessions, to ensure its early contribution to the work of the international meeting on population to be held in 1994 and to address the role of technologies in the development of developing countries;
8. Endorses Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/12 of 24 May 1990, in which the Council recommended that a world conference on women should be held



in 1995 and requested that the Commission act as the preparatory body for the world conference;

9. Takes note of the invitation extended by the Government of Austria to host the world conference on women in 1995 at Vienna;

10. Requests the Commission, as the preparatory body for the world conference, to decide on the venue of the conference, not later than 1992, taking into account that preference should be given to those regions that have not yet hosted a world conference on women;

11. Also requests the Commission, in deciding on the preparations for documentation for the conference, to pay attention to Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/9 of 24 May 1990 concerning the second report on the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies;

12. Further requests the Commission to focus the agenda of the world conference in 1995 on the forward-looking Strategies as well as on the recommendations and conclusions of the first review and appraisal; 3/

13. Requests the Commission to ask the Secretary-General to appoint not later than 1992 the Secretary-General of the conference;

14. Requests the relevant United Nations bodies to continue to provide action-oriented inputs when reporting to the Commission on the priority theme;

15. Emphasizes, in the framework of the Forward-looking Strategies, the importance of the total integration of women in the development process, bearing in mind the specific and urgent needs of the developing countries, and calls upon Member States to establish specific targets at each level in order to increase the participation of women in professional, management and decision-making positions in their countries;

16. Also emphasizes the need to give urgent attention to redressing socio-economic inequities at the national and international levels as a necessary step towards the full realization of the goals and objectives of the Forward-looking Strategies;

17. Urges that particular attention be given by the United Nations and Governments to the situation of disabled women and that Governments take steps to ensure the equalization of opportunities for these women in the economic, social and political fields;

18. Also urges the Commission, the relevant organizations of the United Nations and Governments to give particular attention to refugee women and children and migrant women taking into account their contribution to the social, economic and political fields and the urgent need to avoid all kinds of discrimination against them;

19. Endorses the convening in 1991 of a high-level interregional consultation on women in public life, to be financed within existing resources and voluntary and other contributions;
20. Requests the Secretary-General, in formulating the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001 and in integrating the Forward-looking Strategies into activities mandated by the General Assembly, to pay particular attention to the strengthening of national machineries for the advancement of women and to specific sectoral themes that cut across the three objectives, equality, development and peace, in particular literacy, education, health, population, environment and the full participation of women in decision-making;
21. Also requests the Secretary-General to continue updating the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development, <sup>4/</sup> bearing in mind its importance, with particular emphasis on the adverse impact of the difficult economic situation affecting the majority of developing countries, in particular on the condition of women, giving special attention to worsening conditions for the incorporation of women into the labour force as well as to the impact of reduced expenditures on social services on women's opportunities for education, health and child care, and to submit a preliminary version of the updated World Survey to the Economic and Social Council, through the Commission, in 1993 and a final version in 1994;
22. Requests Governments, when presenting candidatures for vacancies in the Secretariat, in particular at the decision-making level, to give priority to women's candidatures, and requests the Secretary-General in reviewing these candidatures to give special consideration to female candidates from underrepresented and unrepresented developing countries;
23. Requests the Secretary-General to invite Governments, organizations of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions and the specialized agencies, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to report periodically to the Economic and Social Council, through the Commission, on activities undertaken at all levels to implement the Forward-looking Strategies;
24. Also requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide for the existing weekly radio programme on women in the regular budget of the United Nations, making adequate provisions for broadcasts in different languages, and to develop the focal point for issues relating to women in the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, which, in concert with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, should provide a more effective public information programme relating to the advancement of women;
25. Further requests the Secretary-General to include in his report on the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, an assessment of recent developments that

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<sup>4/</sup> E/CN.6/1988/7.

are relevant to the priority themes to be considered at the subsequent session of the Commission and to transmit to the Commission a summary of relevant views expressed by delegations during the debate in the Assembly;

26. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on measures taken to implement the present resolution;

27. Decides to consider these questions further at its forty-sixth session under the item entitled "Forward-looking strategies for the advancement of women to the year 2000".

A SELECTION OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC)

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1989/30. PROGRAMME PLANNING AND ACTIVITIES TO ADVANCE THE  
STATUS OF WOMEN

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming the high priority that Member States attach to activities to advance the status of women and the important role played by the Commission on the Status of Women in achieving that objective,

Stressing the need to ensure that, in the allocation of budgetary resources, activities for the advancement of women do not suffer disproportionately from the impact of restructuring and retrenchment measures,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General concerning programme planning matters, 1/

Recalling previous resolutions on programme planning and activities to advance the status of women, including resolution 32/3 of 23 March 1988 of the Commission on the Status of Women, 2/ and, in particular, Council resolution 1988/18 of 26 May 1988,

Concerned that not all elements of the recommendations contained in Council resolution 1988/18 have been fully implemented, particularly those contained in section I, paragraph 1, and section II, paragraph 1,

Stressing that in subsuming the programme on the advancement of women under a major programme entitled "International co-operation for social development" of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, women's issues should not be limited to the rubric of social issues,

1. Welcomes the decision of the Secretary-General to include a separate programme for the advancement of women in his draft proposal for the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, 3/ as recommended by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1988/18 and the Commission on the Status of Women in resolution 32/3;

2. Decides that the inclusion of paragraph 65 in the draft introduction to the medium-term plan 4/ is not an adequate response to the recommendation contained in section I, paragraph 1, of Council resolution 1988/18;

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1/ A/43/329, E/CN.6/1989/10 and E/CN.6/1989/CRP.2.

2/ E/1988/15, chap.I, sect. C; for the final text, see Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1988, Supplement No.5 (E/1988/15/Rev.1).

3/ E/CN.6/1989/CRP.2.

4/ A/43/329.

3. Reiterates that the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women <sup>5/</sup> and the status of women in general should be identified as a global priority in the introduction to the medium-term plan;

4. Urges the Secretary-General to ensure that women's issues are not marginalized under the rubric of social issues and that they are in particular reflected in the economic programmes of the medium-term plan, as well as in other programmes;

5. Endorses the view expressed by the Secretary-General that the proposed subprogramme entitled "Monitoring, review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies" should be given high priority, and urges that the highest priority be accorded to addressing the fundamental needs of women in developing countries, particularly in such areas as literacy, education, employment, health and population, with a view to ensuring their full integration in the development process and full participation in decision-making;

6. Decides that the proposed subprogramme entitled "Development" should be reoriented to focus on the fundamental needs of women in developing countries, particularly the least developed countries;

7. Reiterates the decision contained in section II, paragraph 1, of its resolution 1988/18 that the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 and subsequent programme budgets should provide for full funding from the regular budget for the implementation of all aspects of legislative mandates for the advancement of women;

8. Decides that the Trust Fund for the Preparatory Activities for the 1985 World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, established by the Secretary-General pursuant to Council decision 1983/132 of 26 May 1983, should be continued for the biennium 1990-1991 under the terms of reference set out in section II, paragraph 2, of Council resolution 1988/18, as indicated in the proposed programme of work for the Division for the Advancement of Women for the biennium 1990-1991; <sup>6/</sup>

9. Urges the Secretary-General, in carrying out this decision, to improve collaboration with the specialized agencies and the United Nations Development Fund for Women in consultation with their respective governing bodies, as required;

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<sup>5/</sup> 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.

<sup>6/</sup> See E/CN.6/1989/CRP.1.

10. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the future of the Trust Fund to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-fifth session.

15th plenary meeting  
24 May 1989

1989/32. PREPARATION FOR THE SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS  
OF WOMEN IN 1990 TO REVIEW AND APPRAISE PROGRESS IN THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAIROBI FORWARD-LOOKING STRATEGIES FOR  
THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1988/19 of 26 May 1988, in which it decided to extend the duration of the thirty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, to be held in 1990, in order that the Commission might review and appraise progress in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 1/

Concerned about the urgent need to implement the above-mentioned resolution, taking into account the provisional agenda outlined in the annex to the resolution,

Emphasizing the importance of a successful review and appraisal in order to increase the pace of implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies,

1. Decides that a comprehensive report on the progress achieved and obstacles encountered in implementing the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women in the first five years should be submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at its extended session in 1990;

2. Further decides that draft conclusions and recommendations arising from the review and appraisal should also be submitted and that they should include measures to overcome the obstacles that should be addressed immediately if the pace of implementation of the Strategies is to be increased;

3. Urges that in order to provide guidance in the formulation of draft recommendations and conclusions, information on the preliminary results of the review and appraisal, which will ultimately be included in the comprehensive report, be made available to an open-ended group of Member States meeting on an informal basis in New York during the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly at the time of the debate on the advancement of women;

4. Requests the Secretary-General, in preparing the comprehensive report and draft conclusions and recommendations, to use the documents listed in the annex to Council resolution 1988/22 of 26 May 1988, especially the first regular update of the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development;

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1/ 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.



5. Urges the Secretary-General to contact national machineries for the advancement of women that have not yet responded to the questionnaire to do so immediately in order to obtain representative responses to the questionnaire, and if possible to arrange for diagnostic mission to be sent on request to selected countries to provide assistance in the preparation of responses;

6. Requests the Commission on the Status of Women to consider the documentation prepared by the Secretary-General in plenary meeting and to convene a committee of the whole to provide the final text of the recommendations.

15th plenary meeting

24 May 1989

## 1989/35. WOMEN AND PEACE IN CENTRAL AMERICA

The Economic and Social Council

Recalling that, in adopting the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace recognized that women should participate fully in all efforts to strengthen and maintain international peace and security and to promote international co-operation, 1/

Recalling also that the World Conference also recognized that the violence and destabilization in Central America hindered the fulfillment of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies, essential for the advancement of women, 2/

Noting the agreement on "Procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace in Central America", 3/ signed at the Esquipulas II summit meeting at Guatemala City, on 7 August 1987, by the Presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, and the subsequent meetings of the Presidents in 1988 and February 1989,

Recognizing the valuable contribution of the Contadora Group and its Support Group in the process of bringing peace to Central America,

Recognizing also the valuable efforts put forth by the Secretary-General and the international community to secure peace and development to Central America,

Convinced of the exceptional importance to the people of Central America, particularly the women, of achieving peace, reconciliation, development and social justice in the region, as well as the recognition of their economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights,

Considering that the General Assembly, in resolution 42/1 of 7 October 1987, requested the Secretary-General to promote a special plan of co-operation for Central America,

Desiring to encourage the active participation of women in the promotion of peace and development in Central America,

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1/ 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, para.240.

2/ Ibid., para. 247.

3/ Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-second Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1987, document S/19085.

1. Expresses its satisfaction at the will to peace manifested by the Presidents of the Central American countries in their signing of the agreement on "Procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace in Central America" and at their efforts for the implementation thereof;

2. Again calls upon the Presidents of the Central American countries to continue their joint efforts to achieve peace in Central America, particularly the efforts to establish the Central American Parliament, in order to ensure conditions favourable for the attainment in the region of the objectives of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 4/ and requests the international community to support those efforts;

3. Urges all States to support the peace efforts, fully respecting the principles of self-determination of peoples and non-intervention;

4. Further urges the international community to ensure that programmes of technical, economic and financial co-operation for the region take account of the particular needs and interests of women in Central America;

5. Recommends to the Secretary-General that the special plan of co-operation for Central America include specific activities supporting the advancement of women in the region;

6. Exhorts the Government of the Central American countries and of the countries of the Contadora Group and its Support Group to encourage and ensure the full participation of women at all levels in the search for peace, pluralism, democracy and overall development in the Central American region;

7. Urges national and international, governmental and non-governmental women's organizations to participate in and support actively the processes of democratization, peace and development in Central America.

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4/ 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.

# 1989/36. EQUALITY IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

## The Economic and Social Council

Recalling General Assembly resolution 40/108 of 13 December 1985, in which the Assembly endorsed the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 1/

Noting that progress in achieving de jure equality between women and men has been steady,

Welcoming the clear improvement in some indicators of equality in social participation in most regions, but concerned that progress in other regions is slowing,

Gravely concerned that the pace of achieving de facto equality, particularly equality in economic participation, has evidently been slowing in most countries over the past decade,

Bearing in mind the important economic contributions of women to their communities,

Recognizing that equality for women is closely linked to their economic independence,

Recalling the Plan of Action on Equality of Opportunity and Treatment of Men and Women in Employment of the International Labour Organization, 2/

Noting that various affirmative action policies can accelerate the elimination of discrimination against women,

1. Urges Governments to give high priority to measures and temporary affirmative action programmes that will more rapidly bring about equality in women's economic participation, in particular to programmes that will ensure the following:

- (a) Women's access to the labour market and to education and training;
- (b) Elimination of sex segregation in the labour market and in education;
- (c) Women's participation in trade unions;

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1/ 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.

2/ International Labour Organization document GB.235/CD/2/1.

- (d) Equal pay for equal work;
- (e) Equal access to economic resources, including credit and membership in co-operatives;
- (f) Improved conditions in the informal sector including, where desirable, the application of labour standards, and the development or improvement of sex-disaggregated statistics that accurately reflect women's work in the informal economic sector;

2. Also urges Governments that have not yet done so to ratify conventions of the International Labour Organization on equal pay and working conditions;

3. Requests the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-fourth session, in carrying out its review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 3/ to consider measures to accelerate the pace of achieving equality in economic and social participation, including the definition and compilation of bench-mark statistical indicators that could be used for national, regional and international reporting, as well as affirmative action programmes;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to present to the Commission at its thirty-fourth session examples of affirmative action programmes that would be effective for the achievement of equality in economic and social participation;

5. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its thirty-fourth session proposals for the definition and compilation of bench-mark statistical indicators of equality in economic and social participation.

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3/ 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.

1989/37. MEASURES TO FACILITATE THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN  
IN DEVELOPMENT

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing that women must have education and training to enter the labour market, take part in it on an equal footing with men, and be able to exercise their rights and participate in political and social life,

Considering that women should be able to enter employment without having to sacrifice their right to equality or their reproductive function, and that they therefore require social measures, especially child care,

Affirming the importance of women's access to health programmes, including nutrition and family planning, for promoting their advancement and equality,

Affirming that only the advancement of women on an equal basis with men permits the strengthening and revitalization of the family,

Having considered the recommendations of the Expert Group on Social Support Measures for the Advancement of Women, held at Vienna, from 14 to 18 November 1988, 1/

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General, 2/

1. Endorses the recommendations of the Expert Group on Social Support Measures for the Advancement of Women; 3/

2. Invites Governments to give high priority to programmes to promote the participation of women in education, assuring them equal access to and the availability of literacy programmes;

3. Urges Governments to endeavour to meet the relevant provisions of the conventions of the International Labour Organization, especially those relating to equal pay and working conditions, thus ensuring women's awareness of their rights in all sectors of the economy, both formal and informal;

4. Invites Governments to achieve the goal of the World Health Organization of Health for all through primary health care, ensuring that these services and related information reach women, and involving women in their design and in decision-making, in co-operation with the World Health Organization and other agencies;

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1/ E/CN.6/1989/6.

2/ E/CN.6/1989/6.

3/ E/CN.6/1989/6.

5. Recommends the establishment of programmes of social support for working women, especially comprehensive child-care systems;

6. Invites Governments to design adequate policies to reduce the need for caring for disabled persons by providing them with opportunities to develop their potential and contribute to society and the family, and to pay particular attention to the special needs of women;

7. Recommends that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other organizations that have mandates in education and training give, in their activities, especially those related to the International Literacy Year, proclaimed by the General Assembly in resolution 42/104 of 7 December 1987, higher priority to women in programmes and campaigns intended to eliminate illiteracy in all countries, especially in developing countries;

8. Recommends that the International Labour Organization undertake campaigns to disseminate the conventions approved by Governments, especially those in which women's rights as workers are referred to, and promote the role of labour unions and employers in providing social support to working women;

9. Requests the Secretary-General, bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 43/98, paragraph 7, to promote and support the establishment of strong national organizations of disabled persons and, on that basis, provide assistance in the formation of networks of disabled women and reinforce the movement for self-help by these women, making use of the appropriate non-governmental organizations;

10. Urges United Nations bodies, including the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue their efforts to elaborate sufficient and adequate indicators on women in development, especially in terms of education, employment and health, and to improve data collection at all levels so as to enable realistic policy formulation;

11. Calls on Member States and organizations of the United Nations system, within the framework of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 4/ to increase the participation of women in professional and decision-making positions;

12. Recommends that all plans, programmes and activities relating to the family should be considered by the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women in order to ensure harmonious co-ordination and effectiveness in achieving results;

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4/ 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.

13. Requests the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-fourth session.

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## 1989/38. ELDERLY WOMEN

The Economic and Social Council,

Aware that women constitute a majority of the older population and that in the years to come the number of elderly women will increase more rapidly in the developing countries than in the developed ones,

Recognizing the important contribution that these women have made throughout their lives, in particular during their older years, to social, economic and cultural activities, both paid and unpaid,

Concerned that, as they age, women are increasingly exposed to marginalization or to poverty,

Bearing in mind its resolution 1989/50 of 24 May 1989, in which it called upon the Commission on the Status of Women to give particular attention to the specific problems faced by elderly women,

1. Recommends that concerted efforts be undertaken or strengthened at the national, regional and international levels in order to enable women to meet the challenges they face during their lives, in particular during their older years;

2. Recommends that, within existing budgetary resources or, where necessary, with the help of extrabudgetary or voluntary resources, the organizations of the United Nations system concerned provide to the bodies responsible for the advancement of women information enabling them to undertake a precise and in-depth analysis of the situation of elderly women, if necessary developing specific new methods for data collection;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to organize a seminar, within available budgetary resources, to study questions arising from the above-mentioned analysis and to transmit the results of the study to the Commission on the Status of Women;

4. Encourages Governments to ensure that women increase their participation in social and economic progress throughout their lives;

5. Urges Governments, in co-operation with the non-governmental organizations concerned, to strengthen activities for the benefit of elderly women, taking better account of their specific needs;

6. Requests the Commission on the Status of Women, in carrying out its review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 1/

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1/ 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.

1989/39. WOMEN, HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT IN CENTRAL AMERICA

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering the economic, social and political crisis in the Central American region, which involves various forms of discrimination and violence, affecting women in particular,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the full participation of women in the construction of their countries and in the creation of just social and political systems, 1/

Considering that in recent years various women's organizations have been formed in the region and that they are fighting and calling for the defence of human rights in general and women's rights in particular,

Recognizing the efforts that the Governments and peoples of Central America are making to achieve a political solution to the conflicts,

Recognizing the need to unite and strengthen further the efforts of Governments, United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations aimed at achieving a new international economic and social order, so as to make real and effective the development to which the peoples of Central America aspire,

1. Urges Governments, United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations to support:

(a) Programmes to strengthen women's organizations that are demanding that women be granted their full rights as citizens;

(b) Activities or forums to broaden and deepen discussion of the problem of Central American women and solutions thereto, in which all social, political and cultural sectors of the countries of Central America may participate;

(c) Research to analyze the problems of Central American women in all their dimensions and to propose viable alternative solutions based on the opinions of all the women's sectors concerned;

(d) Publications and information and documentation systems on the results of the proposals for integration or practical action that will permit women's organizations in the Central American region to advance within the general context of society;

2. Urges the international community to publicize, and to support through international solidarity, the need for greater participation of women in the

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1/ E/CN.6/1989/7.

processes of change and in the bodies involved in negotiations and dialogue, which are designed to bring about a political solution to the problems and conflicts of the Central American region;

3. Urges national and international women's associations, both governmental and non-governmental, to develop education, training and self-help programmes aimed at improving the living conditions and the social and political participation of Central American women;

4. Requests the Secretary-General and the specialized agencies to pay particular attention to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women 2/ and to the human rights of women in Central America, as a prerequisite for ensuring women's full participation in the building of their countries and in the creation of social and political systems that are just.

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2/ 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.

## 1989/40. WOMEN LIVING IN ABSOLUTE POVERTY

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 43/195 of 20 December 1988 on international co-operation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolutions 1988/47 of 27 May 1988 on extreme poverty,

Noting with great concern the information on the population living in poverty in developing countries and on women's participation in the labour force contained in the 1989 report on the world social situation. 1/

Convinced that absolute poverty limits the advancement of women in the social, political and economic development of their countries,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to take into account, in the report prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 43/195, the impact of absolute poverty on women;

2. Draws the attention of the Commission for Social Development to the need to discuss in depth, at its thirty-second and subsequent sessions, the subject of absolute poverty and women, when considering reports of the Secretary-General concerning the world social situation;

3. Urges the Commission on the Status of Women to give due consideration to the subject of absolute poverty when considering its priority themes of equality, development and peace;

4. Appeals to all Member States to make efforts to overcome absolute poverty by increasing the level of integration of women in the economic and social development of their countries.

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1/ E/CN.5/1989/2; to be issued as a United Nations publication.

## 1989/41. WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT

The Economic and Social Council

Recalling its resolution 1987/24 of 26 May 1987, in which it endorsed the long-term programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women,

Recognizing that developing countries are suffering the most severe economic and social crisis of recent decades and consequently a grave deterioration in their social situation, which has disproportionately affected women,

Considering, in particular, the severe effects of servicing external debt and the effects of ongoing structural adjustment programmes on the economies of the developing countries, hindering their economic development and leading to a deterioration in the quality of life of large sections of the population, especially of women and children,

Emphasizing the vital importance of economic growth and development for the effective mobilization and integration of women in the economy,

Noting the link between education, employment and health, and also the negative impact that the lack of adequate social support measures has on the integration of women in development,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Women and education, eradication of illiteracy, employment, health and social services, including population issues and child care: the need for social support measures", 1/

1. Urges Governments to accord higher priority to programmes to promote the participation of women in the labour force and their access to education, health and social services, and to allowing women access to decision-making on the design and implementation of such programmes;

2. Requests the Secretary-General, in collaboration with regional commissions, to include in the report to be submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-fourth session an evaluation of the effects of the debt crisis, including the effects of the structural adjustment programmes, on the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women; 2/

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1/ E/CN.6/1989/6.

2/ 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.

3. Requests the organizations of the United Nations system concerned with development, when designing their relevant programmes, to pay special attention to the role of women, especially rural women and poor women, in the development process, particularly in the fields of education, health, employment, agriculture and social services;

4. Requests the organizations of the United Nations system to maintain and strengthen their institutional support structures for women in developing countries;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-fourth session.

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1989/42. ECONOMIC SITUATION OF WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA  
AND THE CARIBBEAN

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking account of the fact that the debtor countries of Latin America and the Caribbean are undergoing an economic crisis manifested, inter alia, by the stagnation of their economies and the unprecedented drop in their per capita income,

Considering the negative effect of the economic crisis on social indicators, particularly those relating to the status of women,

Taking account of the analysis of the difficult situation of Latin American and Caribbean women prepared by the Fourth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, held under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Taking account of the need to face, at the national, regional and international levels, the problems in the debtor countries that are hampering the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 1/

Recommends that:

(a) The organizations of the United Nations system, in their programmes for the improvement of the status of women, take account of the problems facing women in the debtor countries of latin America and the Caribbean;

(b) Documentation on priority themes prepared by the Secretary-General for submission to the Commission on the Status of Women identify the differences between the various national and regional situations and highlight the specific problems affecting women in the context of the economic crisis in Latin America and the Caribbean;

(c) The Secretary-General pay special attention to the obstacles originating in the economic stagnation caused, inter alia, by the burden of the external debt in his report to the Commission at its thirty-fourth session on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women;

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1/ 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.



(d) The recommendations put forward by the Commission for future action at the national and international levels include an appeal to the appropriate parties in the debtor and creditor countries so as to create better conditions for the effective implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies.

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1989/44. ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN IN  
 ACCORDANCE WITH THE AIMS OF THE CONVENTION ON  
 THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION  
 AGAINST WOMEN

The Economic and Social Council,

Bearing in mind that one of the purposes of the United Nations, as stated in Articles 1 and 55 of the Charter, is to promote universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of any kind, including distinction as to sex,

Affirming that women and men should participate equally in social, economic and political development, should contribute equally to such development and should share equally in improved conditions of life,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 43/100 of 8 December 1988 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/26 of 26 May 1988,

Noting resolution 33/3 of 6 April 1989, adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women, 1/

Aware of the important contribution that the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women 2/ can make to eliminating all forms of discrimination against women and to achieving legal and de facto equality of women and men,

Bearing in mind that 18 December 1989 marks the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its eighth session, 3/

Noting that the Committee agreed, in examining reports, to take due account of the different cultural and socio-economic systems of States parties to the Convention,

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1/ E/1989/27, chap.I; for the final text, see Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1989, Supplement No.9 (E/1989/27/Rev.1).

2/ 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.

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No.38 (A/44/38).

1. Welcomes the ratification of or accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women by an increasing number of Member States;

2. Urges all States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so as soon as possible;

3. Urges States parties to the convention to make all possible efforts to submit their initial implementation reports, as well as their second and subsequent periodic reports, in accordance with article 18 of the Convention and the guidelines provided by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and to co-operate fully with the Committee in the presentation of their reports;

4. Strongly supports the view of the Committee that the Secretary-General should accord higher priority within existing resources to strengthening support for the Committee;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, in preparing the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, to take due account of article 17, paragraph 9, of the Convention in providing the Committee with the staff and facilities necessary for the effective performance of its functions in order to enable it to carry out its mandate as efficiently as other human rights treaty bodies;

6. Welcomes the efforts made by the Committee to rationalize its procedures and expedite the consideration of periodic reports and to develop procedures and guidelines for the consideration of second and subsequent periodic reports, and strongly encourages the Committee to continue those efforts;

7. Supports the proposal made by the Committee to convene a working group to meet for three to five days prior to the ninth session of the Committee to prepare issues and questions relating to the second and subsequent periodic reports of the States parties to be considered at the ninth session of the Committee, 4/ and invites the General Assembly to take the necessary action;

8. Recognizes the special relevance of the periodic reports of States parties to the Convention to the efforts of the Commission on the Status of Women to review and appraise the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies in those countries;

9. Requests the Secretary-General, in view of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on 18 December 1989, to provide, facilitate and encourage, within existing resources, the dissemination of public information relating to the Committee and the Convention, taking into account all the relevant general recommendations made by the Committee at its eighth session, in particular general recommendation 10; 5/

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4/ Ibid., paras. 22-24 and annex V.

5/ Ibid., sect. V.

10. Recommends that meetings of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women be scheduled, whenever possible, to allow for the timely transmission of the results of its work to the Commission on the Status of Women, for information, the same year.

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1989/105. SYSTEM-WIDE CO-ORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES TO  
ADVANCE THE STATUS OF WOMEN AND TO INTEGRATE  
WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming its essential role in reviewing and co-ordinating all activities of the United Nations system relevant to women's issues,

Recalling all relevant resolutions on co-ordination matters pertaining to the status of women, particularly Economic and Social Council resolutions 1985/46 of 31 May 1985, 1986/71 of 23 July 1986, 1987/65 of 8 July 1987, 1987/86 of 8 July 1987, 1988/22 of 26 May 1988, 1988/59 of 27 July 1988 and 1988/60 of 27 July 1988 and decision 1987/182 of 8 July 1987,

Noting, in particular, the report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on plans and programmes of the organizations of the United Nations system to implement the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development for the period 1990-1995, 1/ the report of the Secretary-General on the preparation of a system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001 2/ and the report of the Secretary-General on the scope and general approach of the cross-organizational programme analysis on the activities of the United Nations system related to the advancement of women, 3/

Recalling the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development for the period 1990-1995, 4/ accepted by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1987/86,

Considering the central role of the Commission on the Status of Women in promoting international co-operation to integrate women fully in economic development programmes and activities,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 42/193 of 11 December 1987 and 43/182 of 20 December 1988 on the preparation of an international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade,

1. Decides to continue to include the question of the system-wide co-ordination of activities to advance the status of women and to integrate women in development in its programme of work under the item on co-ordination in order to monitor the implementation of the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development in the programmes and programme budgets of the organizations of the United Nations system;

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1/ E/1989/16 and Corr. 1.

2/ E/1989/9.

3/ E/AC.51/1988/2.

4/ See E/1987/52.

2. Requests the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, to report to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Economic and Social Council, biennially in odd-numbered years beginning in 1991, on the extent to which the system-wide medium-term plan is incorporated into the programmes and programme budgets of the organizations of the United Nations system, using as a baseline indicator the cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system for the advancement of women; 5/

3. Requests the Secretary-General to integrate the parts of the reports of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Council on the programme budget aspects of the implementation of the system-wide medium-term plan into his biennial report on monitoring the progress made by the organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 6/ prepared under Council resolution 1988/22;

4. Recommends that all substantive reporting to the Commission on the Status of Women on the implementation of the system-wide medium-term plan be consolidated in a concise, detailed and analytical way in the biennial report on monitoring the progress made by the organizations of the United Nations system;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, to the extent possible, to subsume under the comprehensive reporting system established by Council resolution 1988/22 the existing reporting obligations to the Commission on the Status of Women not otherwise provided for in the present resolution regarding the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to make available to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirtyfourth session documents related to the cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system for the advancement of women, including the analysis itself 7/ and the relevant portions of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on the work of its twenty-ninth session, 8/ as well as the report of the Secretary-General on the effective mobilization and integration of women in development 9/ and the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women;

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5/ E/1989/19 and Corr. 1.

6/ 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.

7/ E/1989/19 and Corr. 1.

8/ Official records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/44/16), chap. IV, sect. B.

9/ A/44/290-E/1989/105.

7. Urges all United Nations bodies, including the regional commissions, and the specialized agencies that have not yet done so to adopt and implement comprehensive policies for the advancement of women, on the basis of the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development, and to incorporate them in their organization's medium-term plans, statements of objectives, programmes and other major policy statements;

8. Endorses the timetable proposed by the Secretary-General for the preparation of a system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001; 10/

9. Requests the Secretary-General, in formulating the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001, to pay particular attention to the strengthening of national machinery for the advancement of women and to specific sectoral themes that cut across the three objectives --equality, development and peace-- of the Forward-looking Strategies, such as literacy, education, population, health and the full participation of women in decision-making;

10. Request the Secretary-General to continue to take the necessary measures to ensure that specific action is taken to integrate the Forward-looking Strategies into related activities mandated by the General Assembly, in particular those mandated in the following resolutions: 42/104 of 7 December 1987 on the International Literacy Year, 42/186 of 11 December 1987 on the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, 42/193 of 11 December 1987 and 43/182 of 20 December 1988 on the preparation of an international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade, 43/15 of 27 October 1988 on the prevention and control of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and 43/181 of 20 December 1988 on the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000;

11. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole for the Preparation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade to attach high priority to issues related to the full integration of women in the development process, particularly by focusing on such prerequisites as literacy, education, employment, child care, population, health and participation in decision-making, and to stress the importance of the improvement of the situation of women for the fulfillment of such prerequisites.

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10/ E/1989/9, para. 6.

1989/106. EFFECTIVE MOBILIZATION AND INTEGRATION  
OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1988/49 of 26 July 1988,

Noting the section of the World Economic Survey, 1989 <sup>1/</sup> on the socio-economic attainment of women,

Noting also that the first update of the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development will be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session,

1. Welcomes the section on the socio-economic attainment of women contained in the World Economic Survey, 1989;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to maintain that section in the World Economic Survey and to incorporate, inter alia, statistical indicators on income distribution, health, nutrition, fertility and education;

3. Also requests the Secretary-General to focus, in the next edition of the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development, on socio-economic aspects, inter alia, of emerging trends with respect to women and education, health, population, income distribution, employment and environment issues, as well as the participation of women in decision-making, and to submit a draft text to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1994 for comment;

4. Further requests the Secretary-General to invite the regional commissions, within their terms of reference, to provide relevant input for the section of the World Economic Survey on the socio-economic attainment of women and for the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development;

5. Recommends that the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat play a central role in the intensified co-ordination of statistical data within the United Nations system on women in development and that United Nations sectoral studies be planned and published in a mutually supportive manner.

36th plenary meeting  
27 July 1989

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<sup>1/</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E.89.11.C.1 and corrigendum, "Special issues", sect. I



1990/4. EQUALITY IN POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND  
DECISION-MAKING

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 1/ in particular paragraphs 86 to 92 thereof,

Recalling also the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 2/ in particular paragraph 7 thereof,

Noting the recommendation made by the Expert Group on Equality in Political Participation and Decision-making, held at Vienna from 18 to 22 September 1989, that the advancement of women should be considered a priority in national decision-making and that women should be full partners in those decisions, 3/

Gravely concerned that on average women represent a very low proportion of decision makers in all regions,

Gravely concerned also about the findings in the report of the Secretary-General concerning the low number of women throughout the United Nations system, particularly in senior policy-level and decision-making posts, 4/

Bearing in mind that key decisions in society are taken in a large number of bodies, such as Governments, parliaments, public boards and committees, trade and industry boards, trade unions and other organizations,

Also bearing in mind that women constitute approximately half the world's population and must participate on an equal footing with men in national decision-making and in the construction of their countries,

Considering that decisions taken in society, if they are to reflect universal views, need to be based on the experience of women as well as men,

Also considering that women at all levels of society should be aware of the importance of political and other decisions to their everyday life and the potential impact of their participation in those decisions,

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1/ 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 N° E.85.IV.10), chap. I., sect. A.

2/ General Assembly resolution 34/180.

3/ See E/CN.6/1990/2 and Corr. 1.

4/ See E/CN.6/1990/2 and Corr. 1, sect. C.

Aware of the need to create more flexible structures in decision-making and open practices in recruiting processes,

Noting the importance of the contribution of women's organization and other non-governmental organizations to the work of increasing women's participation in decision-making at all levels of society,

Affirming that increasing the number of women in decision-making, in Member States as well as in the organizations of the United Nations system, is of paramount importance for the fulfillment and implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies,

1. Welcomes the recommendations of the Expert Group on Equality in Political Participation and Decision-making;

2. Urges States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to ensure strict implementation of the Convention and to facilitate the wide publication of its provisions;

3. Urges Governments to increase their efforts to make women full partners in national decision-making;

4. Recommends that, in order to accelerate the pace of progress towards the full participation of women in national decision-making, Governments introduce the following measures:

a) The regular compilation and dissemination of gender-specific data on the composition of relevant bodies at various levels of national decision-making, including central and regional levels;

b) The design of programmes and campaigns to inform women of their legal political rights, including the introduction of temporary positive action measures and the facilitation of the training of women for leadership and participation in political organizations and trade unions;

c) The review of educational material with the aim of removing gender bias;

d) The facilitation of research on women's opportunities to exert influence and on structural and other obstacles to women's participation in decision-making;

e) The setting of concrete targets for the number of women in bodies whose composition is the responsibility of the Government;

5. Urges political organizations, trade unions and other relevant bodies to take appropriate measures to increase substantially the number of women who participate in decision-making in their organizations;

6. Requests the Secretary-General, as part of the regular work for the advancement of women carried out by the Organization, to disseminate on a regular basis information on the composition of the highest decision-making bodies at the national, regional and international levels, disaggregated by sex, to assist

national machinery for the advancement of women in developing similar information at the central, regional and local levels, and to promote the exchange of experience between national machinery;

7. Also requests the Secretary-General urgently to intensify his efforts to increase the number of women employees throughout the United Nations system, particularly in senior policy-level and decision-making posts.

13th plenary meeting

24 May 1990

1990/5. PHYSICAL VIOLENCE AGAINST DETAINED WOMEN THAT IS  
SPECIFIC TO THEIR SEX

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting with grave concern the continuing pattern of physical violence against women, cases of rape, sexual abuse and other instances of violent treatment while detained, to which the Commission on the Status of Women drew attention at its thirty-fourth session,

Considering that women are especially vulnerable to sexual violence,

Recalling its resolution 76(V) of 5 August 1947, 304 I(XI) of 14 and 17 July 1950, 1984/19 of 24 May 1984 and 1986/29 of 23 May 1986,

Recalling also its resolutions 1980/39 of 2 May 1980 and 1983/27 of 26 May 1983, by which it reaffirmed the mandate of the Commission to consider communications relating to the status of women, including the replies of Governments thereon, if any, and to draw to the attention to the Council emerging trends and patterns so that the Council might decide what action to take,

1. Calls upon all Member States that have not yet done so to take appropriate measures urgently, as necessary, to eradicate acts of physical violence against detained women;

2. Invites Member States that have not yet done so to submit to the Secretary-General a report on legislative and other measures they have taken, as applicable, to prevent physical violence against detained women that is specific to their sex, so as to enable him to report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-sixth session, in 1992;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Commission at its thirty-sixth session prepared on the basis of reports received from Member States;

4. Requests the Commission to continue to consider communications relating to the status of women and to make recommendations thereon to the Council, if necessary.

13th plenary meeting  
24 May 1990

1990/7. CENTRAL AMERICAN WOMEN: EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1989/35 of 24 May 1989 on women and peace in Central America,

Bearing in mind the progress made in the implementation of the commitments reached by the Presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua at the Esquipulas II summit meeting, 1/ and the joint declarations adopted by those Presidents at Alajuela, Costa Rica, 2/ at Costa del Sol, El Salvador 3/ and, in particular, at Tela, Honduras, 4/

Convinced of the exceptional importance to the peoples of Central America, in particular the women, of the achievement of peace, reconciliation, development and social justice in the region, and the recognition of their economic, social, cultural, political and civil rights,

Considering that the problems connected with the economic, social and political situation of the Central American region severely affect the living conditions and welfare levels of the population in general and of women in poverty and their children, in particular,

Considering the importance of the role that Central American women play or should play in the development of the countries of the region, as well as in the peace process and the preservation of national sovereignty,

Considering also that the intensity of the crisis in the region has caused women's associations to postpone their efforts to obtain social equality for Central American women,

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1/ A/42/521-S/19085, annex; see Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-second Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1987, document S/19085.

2/ A/42/911-S/19447, annex; see Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-third Year, Supplement for January, February and March 1988, document S/19447.

3/ A/44/140-S/20491, annex; see Official Records of the Security Council, Forty Fourth Year, Supplement for January, February and March 1989, document S/20491.

4/ See A/44/451-S/20778; see Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-fourth Year, Supplement for July, August and September, 1989, document S/20778.

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 42/231 of 12 May 1988, 43/210 of 20 December 1988 and 44/182 of 19 December 1989 on the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America, 5/

1. Expresses its satisfaction at the progress made in the implementation of the commitments made in the agreement concluded at the Esquipulas II summit meeting and in subsequent agreements;

2. Again calls upon the Presidents of the Central American countries to persevere in their joint efforts to reach peace in Central America and to ensure favourable conditions for the full implementation in the region of the objectives of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 6/ and requests the international community to support those efforts;

3. Urges all States to support the peace efforts, fully respecting the principles of self-determination and non-intervention;

4. Urges the Central American Governments to intensify their efforts to guarantee education, health, housing and employment to women on equal terms with men;

5. Appeals to the Central American Governments to facilitate and promote the adoption and full implementation of laws on the protection and social promotion of women;

6. Also appeals to the Central American Governments to promote the participation of women in the development of societies based on equality, peace, self-determination and social justice;

7. Recommends to the Secretary-General the reinforcement of the Special Plan of Economic Co-operation for Central America with concreated activities supporting the advancement of Central American women;

8. Urges the international community to take into consideration the specific needs and interests of Central American women in the programmes of technical, economic and financial co-operation for the region;

9. Urges women's organizations, national and international, governmental and non-governmental, to play an active role in the democratization, peace and development processes in Central America.

13th plenary meeting

24 May 1990

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5/ A/42/949.

6/ 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 N° E.85.IV.10), chap. I., sect. A.

1990/10. INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
STRATEGY FOR THE FOURTH UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT  
DECADE

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 44/169 of 19 December 1989, the annex to which contains an outline for the elaboration of an international development strategy for the Fourth United Nations development decade,

Recognizing that a major theme of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 1/ particularly of paragraphs 109 to 111 thereof, is the role of women in development,

Stressing the critical role played by women in the development process, and that women constitute 50 per cent of available human resources,

Noting that the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole for the Preparation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, established by the General Assembly by its resolution 43/182 of 20 December 1988, will elaborate the outline, with a view to finalizing the international development strategy in 1990,

1. Recommends that the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole for the Preparation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade identify strategies for ensuring that women's needs and their contribution to the development process are reflected in all aspects of the international development strategy, including human resource development and economic growth;

2. Also recommends that the Ad Hoc Committee, in finalizing the international development strategy, consider measures to ensure the full and effective participation of women in development, taking into consideration Council resolution 1989/105, paragraph 11, of 27 July 1989, as well as relevant resolutions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-fourth session; 2/

3. Urges Member States to give special attention to the role of women in development when preparing their contributions to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee to finalize the international development strategy and, in this regard,

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1/ 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 N° E.85.IV.10), chap. I., sect. A.

2/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1990, Supplement N° 5 (E/1990/25), chap. I.

to consult with national machinery and the non-governmental organizations concerned with women in development;

4. Decides that the Commission on the Status of Women should monitor the implementation of the international development strategy as it pertains to women and development in the context of its review of the implementation of the Nairobi-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women.

13th plenary meeting

24 May 1990



## 1990/12. WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN TO BE HELD IN 1995

The Economic and Social Council,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 35/10 C of 3 November 1980, on special conferences of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolution 1987/20 of 26 May 1987, in which it recommended that world conferences to review and appraise the progress achieved in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women be held during the decade of the 1990s, on a date to be determined by the General Assembly not later than 1990, and in 2000,

Recalling that the General Assembly, in its resolution 44/77 of 8 December 1989, requested the Commission on the Status of Women to consider at its session in 1990 the question of holding in 1995 a world conference on women, at the lowest possible cost, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its forty-fifth session,

Bearing in mind that in its resolution 1987/20 the Council decided that the Commission on the Status of Women would be designated the preparatory body for those world conferences,

Convinced that without a major international event by which to focus national attention on the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies, the review and appraisal to take place in 1995 will not be given sufficient priority,

Reaffirming the continuing validity of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies, including the interrelationship between equality, development and peace, and stressing the need to ensure their full implementation by the year 2000,

1. Recommends that a world conference on women be held in 1995;
2. Requests the Commission on the Status of Women, as the preparatory body for the world conference, to include preparations for the conference in its regular work programme during the period 1991-1995 under the item concerning the monitoring of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women;
3. Requests the Secretary-General to include the relevant costs of preparing for and convening the world conference in the programme budget for the bienniums 1992-1993 and 1994-1995, within the respective budgetary limits;
4. Also requests the Secretary-General to make proposals on the preparation and convening of the world conference for submission to the Commission at its thirty-fifth session.

13th plenary meeting  
24 May 1990

1990/14. ACTION TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF THE SLOW PROGRESS IN  
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAIROBI FORWARD-LOOKING  
STRATEGIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General 1/ on progress made at the national, regional and international levels in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,

Aware of the fact that, although some progress was reported in the area of de jure equality, progress in de facto equality is slow in both developing and developed countries,

Deeply concerned about the seriousness of the situation in many developing countries, where economic stagnation or negative growth, continued population increase, the growing burden of debt, and reduction of public expenditures for social programmes as part of unavoidable adjustment-oriented policies have further constrained the opportunities for women to improve their situation,

Alarmed by trends, in particular in some developing countries, that suggests that there has been a regression in the status of women in education, employment and health, and that there has been slow or no progress in achieving the full integration of women in development or the full participation of women in efforts to promote peace,

Conscious of the fact that, in many countries, the national machinery for the advancement of women lacks the necessary technology and resources to gather and disseminate information or to formulate policies in favour of women,

Taking into account the fact that in many countries the issue of the advancement of women is receiving low priority,

Bearing in mind the role assigned to the United Nations system in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 2/

1. Urges Governments to make renewed commitments to implement the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women by strengthening their national machinery and increasing the resources devoted to programmes for the advancement of women;

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1/ E/CN.6/1990/5.

2/ 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 publications, Sales N° E.85.IV.10), chap.I., sect. A.

2. Requests the Secretary-General to carry out, through the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, a world-wide educational campaign to increase awareness of the obstacles encountered in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies, in particular:

a) Obstacles to de facto equality in political participation and decision-making;

b) Obstacles to the advancement of women in education, employment and health, in particular in developing countries, giving special attention to problems confronted by women living in extreme poverty, rural women and women in the informal sector of the economy;

c) Obstacles to the participation of women in the peace progress;

3. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1991, through the Commission on the Status of Women, on the implementation of the present resolution.

13th plenary meeting

24 May 1990

1990/15. RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS ARISING FROM THE FIRST  
REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE NAIROBI FORWARD-LOOKING  
STRATEGIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN  
TO THE YEAR 2000

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1987/18 of 26 May 1987, in which it affirmed the appropriateness of a five-year cycle of review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,

Having reviewed the discussion held by the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-fourth session on the report of the Secretary-General 1/ on progress at the national, regional and international levels in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies,

1. Adopts the recommendations and conclusions arising from the first review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, annexed to the present resolution;

2. Urges Governments and international and non-governmental organizations to implement the recommendations;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to give wide distribution to the recommendations and conclusions;

4. Also requests the Secretary-General to include information on the implementation of the recommendations in his biennial monitoring report and in the report on the second regular review and appraisal of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies.

ANNEX

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS ARISING FROM THE FIRST REVIEW  
AND APPRAISAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAIROBI  
FORWARD-LOOKING STRATEGIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT  
OF WOMEN

I. Increasing the pace of implementation of the Nairobi  
Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement  
of Women

1. After five years of implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, and one third of the time set for

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1/ E/CN.6/1990/5.

achieving the objectives has elapsed, obstacles remain. Although the continued efforts of women throughout the world to achieve equality, development and peace have begun to have an effect at the grass-roots level, their efforts have yet to be translated into improvements in the daily lives of most women. This success is largely invisible: it is not yet reflected in official statistics and not always found in government policy. The entrenched resistance to women's advancement and the reduction of resources available for change that has accompanied the world economic situation in the late 1980s have meant that there has been a loss of impetus and even stagnation in some areas where more progress would have been expected.

2. The pace of implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies must be improved in the crucial last decade of the twentieth century. The cost to societies of failing to implement the Strategies will be high in terms of slowed economic and social development, misuse of human resources and reduced progress for society as a whole. For this reason, immediate steps should be taken to remove the most serious obstacles to the implementation of the Strategies.

#### A. Equality

3. The interdependence of the different political and social sectors on the one hand, and the legal and social situation on the other, needs to be recognized. However, de jure equality constitutes only the first step towards de facto equality. Most countries have enacted legal measures to ensure that women have equal opportunities before the law, that is, de jure equality. But de facto as well as de jure discrimination continues and visible political and economic commitment by Governments and non-governmental organizations will be required to eliminate it. One obstacle to eliminating de facto discrimination is that most women and men are not aware of women's legal rights or do not fully understand the legal and administrative systems through which they must be implemented. Some affirmative action measures require legal bases which still need to be created.

Recommendation I. Governments, in association with women's organizations and other non-governmental organizations, should take steps on a priority basis to inform women and men of women's rights under international conventions and national law and to prepare or continue campaigns for women's "legal literacy" using formal and non-formal education at all levels, the mass media and other means; efforts to this end should have been undertaken by 1994.

The work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women should be widely publicized through forms of communication that are accessible to women in order to make them aware of their rights. National reports to the Committee should be widely disseminated within the respective countries and discussed by governmental and non-governmental organizations. Organizations of the United Nations system, particularly the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization, should be requested to examine national experience in promoting legal literacy with a view to assisting

Governments, non-governmental organizations and women's movements in mounting successful campaigns.

Recommendation II. Governments should take steps to put legal equality into practice, including measures to provide a link between individual women and official machinery such as the establishment of offices of ombudsmen or similar systems. Where possible, access to legal redress by collective and individual legal action by national machinery and non-governmental organizations should be facilitated in order to assist women in ensuring the implementation of their rights.

4. There is abundant evidence that practices denigrating the role and potential of women continue to constitute obstacles in many countries. Whether reflected in stereotyped images of male and female roles in textbooks or in the glorification of traditional roles in the mass media, the perpetuation of such images retards women's advancement by providing justification for a unequal status quo.

Recommendation III. In the area of education, both formal and non-formal, Governments should promote the training of teachers on gender issues, co-education and professional counselling. Governments should complete the revision of textbooks expeditiously, if possible by 1995, in accordance with national law and practice, in order to eliminate sex-biased presentations and should, in conjunction with women's groups, take steps to reduce the stereotyping of women in the mass media, whether by self-policing on the part of the media or by other measures.

Governments, non-governmental organizations, women's group and all other entities concerned should take steps to amend formal and informal educational systems at all levels to promote change in the psychological, social and traditional practices that are the foundation of the de facto obstacles to women's progress.

The United Nations Secretariat, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other appropriate organizations of the United Nations system should continue to analyze the extent and effects of stereotyping of women and implement innovative programmes to combat it.

5. Women have always been an important part of the work-force and their role will continue to grow with development, industrialization, economic necessity and the expansion of women's access to the economy. In most countries, however, the participation of women and men in the economy continues to be unequal, characterized by job segregation, insufficient training opportunities, unequal pay for work of equal value, inadequate career prospects and lack of full participation in economic decision-making.

Recommendation IV. Governments, non-governmental organizations and private-sector enterprises should take special measures to increase the proportion of women involved in economic decision-making, including studies on the incidence of women in such positions in the public and private sectors, the promotion of training programmes, analysis of alternative policies to

provide women with careers leading to economic decision-making, and the adjustment of national legislation.

The United Nations should study the incidence of women in economic decision-making world-wide, analyze innovative national programmes to increase the proportion of women in economic decision-making positions and publicize the results, within existing resources.

Recommendation V. Governments and other appropriate parties should make efforts to increase the number of women in paid employment, including the adoption of measures to eliminate sex segregation in the labour market and to improve women's working conditions. Governments and other appropriate parties should collect, maintain and improve statistics showing the relative remuneration of women and men. They should renew their efforts to close the gap between women's and men's pay, possible by 1995, and take special measures to address the principle of equal pay for work of equal value. They should also take concrete steps to measure the economic value of women's unpaid work with a view to taking it into account in national policies by 1995.

The United Nations system should complete work on methodological aspects of measuring pay inequities between women and men, unpaid work and work in the informal sector and should publish studies of countries where such measurements have been made.

6. That women are grossly underrepresented in political decision-making has been amply documented. This means that decisions on public policies that affect women's equality are still in the hands of men, who may not have the same incentive to pursue them as women. Despite indications that in some countries women, by voting for candidates or parties that promise to promote their interests, are beginning to decide the outcome of elections, the incidence of women in parliaments, political parties and in formal Governments is still low. The situation will persist unless more women stand and are selected for office and are allowed to begin careers leading to senior management positions in the public sector and until women exercise their voting power in their own interests as well as in the interests of society.

7. The number of women in decision-making positions in intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations should be increased. Efforts should also be made to ensure women's participation in the process of selection and enrolment.

Recommendation VI. All civil service regulations should have clear statements on practices of recruitment, appointment, promotion, leave entitlement, training and development, and other conditions of service.

Governments, political parties, trade unions and professional and other representative groups should each aim at targets to increase the proportion of women in leadership positions to at least 30 per cent by 1995, with a view to achieving equal representation between women and men by the year 2000, and should institute recruitment and training programmes to prepare women for those positions.

Governments, political parties, trade unions and women's organizations should be encouraged to establish a list of qualified women which could be used to fill vacant positions. The importance of training women in the skills necessary for political and administrative careers should also be recognized.

The Interregional Consultation on Women in Public Life, to be held in September 1991, should have maximum participation by Governments and non-governmental organizations and should elaborate for the first half of the decade an agenda for political action that will mobilize all women to participate actively in the political process.

The United Nations Secretariat, in co-operation with other institutions and in collaboration with Governments, should further develop and disseminate an accessible data base on the composition of the highest decision-making bodies at the national, regional and international levels, disaggregated by sex. The United Nations system could assist national Governments to set up such data bases.

#### B. Development

8. The experience of the past five years has confirmed the view expressed at the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, held at Nairobi from 15 to 26 July 1985, that the advancement of women is not possible without development, and that without the advancement of women, development itself will be difficult to achieve.

9. Unfortunately, women in most developing countries were adversely affected by an overall economic crisis produced by the debt problem, deteriorating terms of trade, protectionism, internal imbalances and unequal patterns of income distribution. For the majority of women, economic and social developments during the 1980s have not resulted in the benefits anticipated at the beginning of the decade. On the contrary, there has been a dramatic reduction of economic development and the adjustment-oriented policies adopted have led to a serious reduction of public expenditure on education, health and housing. Those circumstances have affected the condition of women in a variety of negative ways.

10. An economic environment of growth with equitable distribution, both at the national level and in the international economic system, is essential, as is the recognition of women's full participation. The feminization of poverty reflects the underlying structural problems faced by women in the midst of economic change. Prevailing economic policies at the national and international levels have frequently failed to take into account potential negative effects on women or women's potential contribution and have accordingly not succeeded.

Recommendation VII. In order to help revitalize economic growth, international economic and social co-operation, together with sound economic policies, should be pursued. Structural adjustment and other economic reform measures should be designed and implemented so as to promote the full participation of women in the development process, while



avoiding the negative economic and social effects. They should be accompanied by policies giving women equal access to credit, productive inputs, markets and decision-making and this should be incorporated fully into national economic policy and planning.

The international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade should take full account of women's contribution and potential and this should be an important part of monitoring its implementation. Relevant organizations of the United Nations system should continue to examine the effects of national and international economic policies on social progress, in particular the condition of women in developing countries.

11. The incorporation of women into the labour force has occurred on a scale unimaginable 30 years ago. Nevertheless, given unfavourable economic conditions in developing countries, the majority of women remain or are increasing in number in the informal sector of the economy.

Recommendation VIII. Governmental policies, non-governmental action and international co-operation should be directed towards supporting programmes to improve the living conditions of women in the informal sector.

These programmes should contribute, among other things, to the incorporation into the informal sector of appropriate technologies which could increase production in that sector and make domestic and international markets more accessible. Women in the informal sector should be encouraged to organize themselves so that they know their rights and are able to obtain the necessary support to exercise them.

Appropriate organizations at the international level should gather more detailed and accurate information related to women in the informal sector in order to identify the most efficient measures to ameliorate their condition.

12. Women are overrepresented among the poor because of the factors deriving from existing inequality between men and women in most societies. The number of women living in extreme poverty in many countries has increased during the period under review.

Recommendation IX. Governments, non-governmental organizations and international organizations should take concrete measures to eradicate poverty. These measures should have a multi-purpose approach and include educational skills and training designed to generate productive activities.

13. Since 1970, there has been a significant expansion in women's access to education, which has proved to be an important means of equipping women to play a full and equal role in society. Although some regions have achieved equality in access to education, considerable progress remains to be achieved in most developing countries at all levels of education, including universal primary education. Moreover, although improved access of girls to education is gradually eliminating illiteracy among the young, gender-related differences in illiteracy among adults continue to constitute an obstacle to women's legal,

economic, social and political empowerment by denying women an essential tool for acquiring knowledge and skills. In addition, women who have access to education are often channelled into traditionally female specialities. Of particular concern for the future is the achievement of women's access to science and technology through education and training, which is now limited by budgetary constraints, especially in developing countries.

Recommendation X. Governments that have not already done so should reorient resources to ensure women's equal access to education and training at all levels and in all fields and, in collaboration with women's groups and non-governmental organizations, should make special efforts to remove all gender-related differences in adult literacy by the year 2000. Programmes should be established to ensure that parents and teachers provide equal educational opportunities for girls and boys. In particular, encouragement should be given to promoting the study by girls of scientific and technological subjects, particularly those corresponding to national development priorities, and to preparing girls for full participation in the economy and in public life. In order to fulfil these commitments, appropriate measures should be taken at the national and international levels to ensure revitalization of growth on a long-term basis.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other organizations of the United Nations system should give special priority to eliminating female illiteracy and to monitoring efforts to ensure that women have equal access to all levels of education and training.

14. The importance of food security and the critical role of women as producers of food --both domestic and cash crops-- are indisputably recognized; none the less, the conditions of rural women are improving at a slow pace and in some cases have even deteriorated. Projects on their behalf have generally met with limited success. The main reasons are insufficient human and financial expertise, the lack of a country-wide network of regional or local branches of government agencies and the lack of technical expertise. All of these factors have been aggravated in developing countries by the current economic crisis, which has shifted resources to export-oriented farmers and deprived rural women of vital inputs and infrastructure.

Recommendation XI. Governments should take particular steps to ensure that new technologies are accessible to women and that women participate in the design and application of those technologies.

Recommendation XII. Governments and non-governmental organizations should adopt empowerment rather than welfare strategies to support women in their role as agricultural producers, with a view to improving their economic and social situation and to integrating them into mainstream agricultural development. Priority should be accorded to projects aimed at guaranteeing access of rural women to technology, credit, training, trade marketing, management and improved agricultural infrastructure and control of the use of land.

The United Nations system, mainly the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, should collaborate with Governments in identifying and providing inputs that are needed to support the agricultural productive capacity of women.

The United Nations system should develop new methods of promoting the transfer of science and technology to women.

15. Since the beginning of the 1980s, there has been a decline in the standard of health and nutrition of women in parts of every developing region due, inter alia, to a decline in per capita expenditure on health. This is a particularly alarming situation since maternal and neonatal health are crucial to infant survival. Infant and child mortality rates have been rising in a number of countries after having declined for decades.

Recommendation XIII. Governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and the public in general should be aware of the decline in women's health in developing countries. Improvement of women's health by the provision of appropriate and accessible health services should be a priority within the goal of health for all by the year 2000. 2/

Women constitute the majority of health care workers in most countries. They should be enabled to play a much larger role in decision-making for health. Governments, international non-governmental organizations and women's organizations should undertake programmes aimed at improving women's health by ensuring access to adequate maternal and child health care, family planning, safe motherhood programmes, nutrition, programmes for female-specific diseases and other primary health care services in relation to the goal of health for all by the year 2000.

The World Health Organization and other organizations of the United Nations system should further develop emergency programmes to cope with the deteriorating conditions of women's health mainly in developing countries, with particular attention to nutrition, maternal health care and sanitation.

16. Women's access to information and services relating to population and family planning are improving only slowly in most countries. A woman's ability to control her own fertility continues to be a major factor enabling her to protect her health, achieve her personal objectives and ensure the strength of her family. All women should be in a position to plan and organize their lives.

Recommendation XIV. Governments, non-governmental organizations and women's movements should develop programmes to enable women to implement their decisions on the timing and spacing of their children. These programmes should include population education programmes linked to women's rights and the role of women in development, as well as the sharing of family

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2/ See General Assembly resolution 36/43.

responsibilities by men and boys. Social services should be provided to help women reconcile family and employment requirements.

Family planning programmes should be developed or extended to enable women to implement their decisions on the timing and spacing of their children and for safe motherhood.

The United Nations Secretariat, the United Nations Population Fund, the World Health Organization and other organizations of the United Nations system should develop collaborative programmes to link the role of women in development to questions related to population.

17. During the past five years, women's health, both physical and psychological, has been increasingly affected in many countries by the consumption and abuse of alcohol, narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

Recommendation XV. Governments and other competent national authorities should establish national policies and programmes on women's health with respect to the consumption and abuse of alcohol, narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Strong preventive as well as rehabilitative measures should be taken.

In addition, efforts should be intensified to reduce occupational health hazards faced by women and to discourage illicit drug use.

18. The emergence, since the Nairobi Conference, of new threats to the health and status of women, such as the alarming increase in sexually transmitted diseases and the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) pandemic, requires urgent action from both medical and social institutions.

Recommendation XVI. Greater attention is also needed with respect to the issue of women and AIDS. Efforts in this regard should be an integral part of the World Health Organization Global Programme on AIDS. Urgent action and action-oriented research are also required by social institutions at all levels, in particular the United Nations system, national AIDS committees and non-governmental organizations, to inform women of the threat of AIDS to their health and status.

19. Urbanization, migration and economic changes have increased the proportion of families headed by women and the number of women entering the labour office. These women have experienced increasing difficulties in harmonizing their economic role with the demands on them to provide care for children and dependants. The double burden, rather than being reduced by greater sharing between spouses, has increased. Unless it is reduced, women will not be able to play their full and fair role in development.

Recommendation XVII. Governments and other appropriate bodies should, by 1995, establish social support measures with the aim of facilitating the combination of parental and other caring responsibilities and paid employment, including policies for the provision of services and measures to increase the sharing of such responsibilities by men and women and to

deal with specific problems of female-headed households that include dependants.

The United Nations Secretariat, the United Nations Children's Fund and other appropriate organizations of the United Nations system should, as part of the International Year of the Family in 1994, make a special effort to analyze the issues of caring for children and dependants and sharing domestic, parental and other caring responsibilities, including the appraisal of national experience.

20. The issue of the environment affects the lives of everyone, women and men alike. Women's participation in making decisions on the environment is limited despite the high level of concern women express for the issue and their involvement in it. Women's concern for the environment in all its aspects can be an important force for a general mobilization of women that may have an impact on other areas, including equality and peace.

Recommendation XVIII. Governments should make efforts to involve individual women and women's groups in making decisions on the environment. Educational programmes should be developed on environmental issues and their relation to daily life.

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in 1992, should consider dealing with the issue of women and the environment with a view, inter alia, to mobilizing women at both the national and international levels and to ensuring that the experience and knowledge of women are fully taken into account.

21. The progress made in disarmament negotiations is welcomed. It is noted that this has not been matched by progress in social and economic development.

Recommendation XIX. Governments are urged to consider redirecting possible savings from disarmament to the improvement of social and economic development, including women's development.

### C. Peace

22. Despite the progress made in some areas, international, regional and national conflicts persist, and women continue to number among their main victims. At the same time, women are no more prominent among those making decisions on conflicts than in the past.

Recommendation XX. Governments should be encouraged to increase the participation of women in the peace process at the decision-making level, including them as part of delegations to negotiate international agreements relating to peace and disarmament and establishing a target for the number of women participating in such delegations.

The United Nations and the international non-governmental organizations concerned should continue to monitor and support greater involvement of women in the peace process.

Recommendation XXI. In the context of an increased effort to resolve the long-standing conflicts affecting Palestinian and South African women, special efforts should be made to ensure that all women concerned fully participate in the peace process and in the construction of their societies. The reconstruction process should include as a priority special programmes of assistance to women. Such programmes should also be developed for the benefit of Namibian women.

23. The recognition that violence against women in the family and society is pervasive and cuts across lines of income, class and culture must be matched by urgent and effective steps to eliminate its incidence. Violence against women derives from their unequal status in society.

Recommendation XXII. Governments should take immediate measures to establish appropriate penalties for violence against women in the family, the work place and society. Governments and other relevant agencies should also undertake policies to prevent, control and reduce the impact of violence on women in the family, the work place and society. Governments and relevant agencies, women's organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector should develop appropriate correctional, educational and social services, including shelters, training programmes for law enforcement officers, the judiciary and health and social service personnel, as well as adequate deterrent and corrective measures. The number of women at all levels of law enforcement, legal assistance and the judicial system should be increased.

The United Nations system, Governments and non-governmental organizations should study the relationship between the portrayal of violence against women in the media and violence against women in the family and society, including possible effects of new transnational transmission technologies.

## II. NATIONAL MACHINERY

24. The first few years of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies have emphasized the importance of national machinery for the advancement of women in promoting the integration of women's needs and concerns into government policies and programmes, in mobilizing grass-roots support and in providing information at the national and international levels. National machinery despite resource limitations, has been a significant factor in keeping the Strategies alive in individual countries. The effectiveness of national machinery has been found to depend on the political commitment of Governments, as reflected in appropriate resource levels, institutional location, competence in technical fields and ability to use information. Improving all of these factors is an important means of eliminating other obstacles.

Recommendation XXIII. National machinery should be established in every State by 1995, should be given an institutional location allowing it to have a direct effect on government policy and should be provided with sufficient resources of its own to collect and disseminate information on the situation of women and on the potential consequences of government policies on women and to contribute to their advancement. National

machinery should continue to develop coherent policies for the advancement of women as part of national priorities and plans.

The United Nations system should support national machinery by providing advisory, training and information services relating to planning and management, training methods, evaluation and the acquisition of use of information; it should encourage mutual assistance and exchange of experience between units of national machinery.

Recommendation XXIV. The United Nations system should, within the existing regular budget, allocate sufficient resources to enable it to meet national requests and maintain co-ordinated international activities at a level that will make possible the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. Additionally, voluntary contributions to this end are to be encouraged.

### III. PRIORITY THEMES FOR THE PERIOD 1993-1996

25. Based on this analysis, the Commission on the Status of Women should examine key priority themes in each of the areas of equality, development and peace.

#### A. Equality

1. Increased awareness by women of their rights, including legal literacy.
2. Equal pay for work of equal value, including methodologies for measurement of pay inequities and work in the informal sector.
3. Equality in economic decision-making.
4. Elimination of stereotyping of women in the mass media.

#### B. Development

1. Women in extreme poverty: integration of women's concerns in national development planning.
2. Women in urban areas: population, nutrition and health factors for women in development, including migration, drug consumption and AIDS.
3. Promotion of literacy, education and training, including technological skills.
4. Child and dependant care, including sharing of work and family responsibilities.

C. Peace

1. Women and the peace process.
2. Measures to eradicate violence against women in the family and society.
3. Women in international decision-making.
4. Education for peace.



1990/17. ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN IN  
ACCORDANCE WITH THE AIMS OF THE CONVENTION ON THE  
ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION  
AGAINST WOMEN

The Economic and Social Council,

Bearing in mind that one of the purposes of the United Nations, as stated in Articles 1 and 55 of the Charter, is to promote universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of any kind, including distinction as to sex,

Affirming that women and men should participate equally in social, economic and political development, should contribute equally to such development and should share equally in improved conditions of life,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979, by which it adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, contained in the annex thereto,

Welcoming the events to mark and commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 44/73 of 8 December 1989 and Council resolution 1989/44 of 24 May 1989,

Taking note of resolution 34/6 of 8 March 1990 of the Commission on the Status of Women, 1/

Taking note also of the decisions adopted at the Fifth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, on 6 February 1990, 2/

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its ninth session, 3/

Noting that the Committee agreed, in examining reports, to take due account of the different cultural and socio-economic systems of States parties to the Convention,

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1/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1990, Supplement N° 5 (E/1990/25), chap. I., sect. C.

2/ CEDAW/SP/17, sect. III.

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement N° 38 (A/45/38 and Corr. 1).

Noting with satisfaction the establishment of the practice of holding a pre-sessional working group three to five days prior to the Committee session,

Recalling that the World Health Organization has announced that the theme of the World AIDS Day, 1 December 1990, will be "Women and AIDS",

1. Takes note of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its ninth session;

2. Welcomes the ratification of or accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women by an increasing number of Member States;

3. Welcomes all States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so as soon as possible;

4. Invites States parties to the Convention to make every possible effort to submit their initial reports on its implementation, as well as their second and subsequent periodic reports, in accordance with article 18 of the Convention and the guidelines provided by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and to co-operate fully with the Committee in the presentation of their reports;

5. Welcomes the efforts made by the Committee to rationalize its procedures and expedite the consideration of periodic reports and to develop procedures and guidelines for the consideration of second and subsequent periodic reports, and strongly encourages the Committee to continue those efforts;

6. Welcomes also, in accordance with the Committee's general recommendation N° 11, 4/ the initiatives taken to provide regional training courses for government officials on the preparation and drafting of reports of States parties, and urges the relevant organs and organizations of the United Nations to support such initiatives;

7. Recognizes the special relevance of the periodic reports of States parties to the Convention to the efforts of the Commission on the Status of Women to review and appraise the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women 5/ in those countries,

8. Acknowledges the efforts of the Secretary-General to provide secretariat staff and technical resources for the effective performance of the functions of the Committee;

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4/ Ibid., Forty-fourth Session, Supplement N° 38 (A/44/38), para. 392.

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 N° E.83.IV.10), chap. I., sect. A.

9. Shares the view of the General Assembly that the Secretary-General should accord higher priority within existing resources to strengthening technical and substantive support for the Committee;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide for, facilitate and encourage, within existing resources, the dissemination of information relating to the Committee, its recommendations, the Convention and the concept of legal literacy, taking into account the Committee's own recommendations to this end;

11. Recommends that, whenever possible, sessions of the Committee be scheduled to allow for the timely transmission of the results of its work to the Commission on the Status of Women, for information, the same year.

13th plenary meeting  
24 May 1990