

## Chapter X

**Women**

During 2002, United Nations efforts to advance the status of women and ensure their rights continued to be guided by the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted by the Fourth (1995) World Conference on Women. The outcome of the General Assembly's twenty-third special session in 2000, to appraise and assess implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+5), prompted further action and initiatives for the advancement of women.

The Commission on the Status of Women, at its forty-sixth session in March, recommended to the Economic and Social Council for adoption agreed conclusions on its two thematic issues: eradicating poverty, including through the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle, in a globalizing world, and a gender perspective of environmental management and mitigation of natural disasters. The Council endorsed the agreed conclusions in July. Also on the Commission's recommendation, the Council adopted resolutions/decisions on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women; the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan; the communications procedure relating to the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; and mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the UN system. The Commission adopted and brought to the Council's attention resolutions on the release of women and children taken hostage in armed conflict; and women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS.

The United Nations Development Fund for Women continued to focus on women's economic security and political empowerment, and to advocate for gender mainstreaming and equality. During the year, the Assembly adopted resolutions on trafficking in women and girls, the situation of older women, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the elimination of crimes against women committed in the name of honour, and the elimination of violence against women.

The International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), which continued to implement phase III and initiated phase IV of its Gender Awareness Information and Networking System, was

the subject of an evaluation by the Working Group on the Future Operation of INSTRAW, established by the Assembly in 2001. The Group proposed measures to achieve a closer linkage between INSTRAW and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The Assembly endorsed the Group's recommendations and extended its mandate to follow up on the implementation of its recommendations.

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### **Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and Beijing+5**

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During 2002, the Commission on the Status of Women (see p. 1154), the Economic and Social Council (see p. 1158) and the General Assembly (see pp. 1137 and 1139) considered follow-up to the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, particularly the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action [YUN 1995, p. 1170], and the political declaration and further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted at the twenty-third special (2000) session of the Assembly (Beijing+5) by resolution S/23-2 [YUN 2000, p. 1084]. The political declaration had reaffirmed the commitment of Governments to the goals and objectives of the Fourth World Conference and to the implementation of the 12 critical areas of concern set forth in the Platform for Action: women and poverty; education and training of women; women and health; violence against women; women and armed conflict; women and the economy; women in power and decision-making; institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women; human rights and women; women and the media; women and the environment; and the girl child (see pp. 1139 to 1156 for action taken regarding the critical areas of concern).

**Report of Secretary-General.** In response to General Assembly resolution 56/132 [YUN 2001, p. 1055], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/57/286] describing the steps taken by the Assembly and its Main Committees, the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Gender

Issues and Advancement of Women to promote the mainstreaming of gender perspectives into UN policies and programmes. The report highlighted action taken relating to the follow-up to the UN Millennium Declaration, adopted in Assembly resolution 55/2 [YUN 2000, p. 49], the International Conference on Financing for Development (see p. 953), the Assembly's special session on children (see p. 1168) and the Second World Assembly on Ageing (see p. 1193).

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 77], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee [A/57/550], adopted **resolution 57/182** without vote [agenda item 103].

#### **Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 50/203 of 22 December 1995, 51/69 of 12 December 1996, 52/100 of 12 December 1997, 53/120 of 9 December 1998, 54/141 of 17 December 1999, 55/71 of 4 December 2000 and 56/132 of 19 December 2001,

*Recalling also* the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", and the proposed actions and initiatives to overcome obstacles and challenges there-

to,

*Deeply convinced* that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session are important contributions to the advancement of women worldwide in the achievement of gender equality and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned, as well as by non-governmental organizations,

*Stressing* the importance of strong, sustained political will and commitment at the national, regional and international levels for achieving full and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session,

*Recognizing* that the responsibility for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session rests primarily at the national level and that strengthened efforts are necessary in this respect, and reiterating that enhanced international cooperation is essential for the effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session,

*Welcoming* the increased attention to the situation of women and girls and the integration of a gender perspective in the work of the United Nations, in particular in the outcomes of major conferences, special sessions and summit conferences and their follow-up

processes, and reaffirming its commitment to building on progress achieved in this respect,

*Welcoming also* the attention given to the situation of women and girls and the integration of a gender perspective in the outcomes of the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, the Second World Assembly on Ageing, held in Madrid from 8 to 12 April 2002, the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly, held in New York from 8 to 10 May 2002, and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002,

*Emphasizing* the importance of the decision taken by the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2001/41 of 26 July 2001, to devote the coordination segment of one of its substantive sessions, before 2005, to the review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, adopted by the Council on 18 July 1997,

*Noting with concern* that the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto have not yet entered into force,

*Reaffirming* the primary and essential role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in promoting the advancement of women and gender equality, while noting the open debate on peacekeeping and gender held in the Security Council on 25 July 2002,

1. *Reaffirms* the goals, objectives and commitments contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and also in the political declaration and further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to and progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

3. *Calls upon* Governments, the relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, and all relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to continue to take effective action to achieve full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, as elaborated in the above-mentioned documents;

4. *Strongly encourages* Governments to continue to support the role and contribution of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

5. *Calls upon* Governments and all other relevant actors to continue to integrate a gender perspective in the implementation of and follow-up to recent United Nations conferences, summits and special sessions and in future reports on this subject;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his annual and quinquennial reports on the follow-up to the United Nations Millennium Declaration an assessment of the progress made in promoting the goal of

gender equality, in particular in relation to the development goals set forth in the Millennium Declaration, and recommendations to improve the measurement and coverage of indicators so that progress towards gender equality can be evaluated over time;

7. *Welcomes* the convening of the World Summit on the Information Society, to be held in Geneva in 2003 and in Tunis in 2005, and encourages Governments and all other stakeholders to integrate a gender perspective in the preparatory processes and outcome documents;

8. *Reaffirms* its decision that the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women, in accordance with their respective mandates and with General Assembly resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and other relevant resolutions, constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that plays the primary role in overall policy-making and follow-up and in coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

9. *Also reaffirms* that the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the twenty-third special session will be undertaken within the framework of an integrated and coordinated follow-up to major international conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields;

10. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to continue its efforts to ensure that gender mainstreaming is an integral part of all activities in its work and that of its subsidiary bodies, building upon agreed conclusions 1997/2 adopted by the Council on 18 July 1997, and in this regard welcomes the inclusion of the issue of gender mainstreaming in its agenda, the consideration of annual progress made in gender mainstreaming and the attention given to gender perspective in the outcomes of the 2002 substantive session of the Council;

11. *Encourages* the Council to request the regional commissions, within their respective mandates and resources, to intensify efforts to build up a database, to be updated regularly, in which all programmes and projects carried out in their respective regions by organizations or bodies of the United Nations system are listed, and to facilitate the dissemination of information on such programmes and projects, as well as the evaluation of their impact on the empowerment of women through the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action;

12. *Welcomes* the contribution of the Commission on the Status of Women in the follow-up and review of the future implementation of the commitments made in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, reaffirms that the Commission will continue to play a central role in this regard, and encourages Governments, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and civil society to continue to support its work;

13. *Recognizes* the importance attached to the regional and subregional monitoring of the global and regional platforms for action and of the implementation of the outcome of the twenty-third special session by regional commissions and other regional or subregional structures, within their mandates, in consulta-

tion with Governments, and calls for the promotion of further cooperation in that respect among Governments and, where appropriate, national machineries of the same region;

14. *Also recognizes* that sustained political will and commitment at the national, regional and international levels are essential elements for the full and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

15. *Further recognizes* that adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels, as well as new and additional resources for the developing countries, including the least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, from all available funding mechanisms, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources, will also be required;

16. *Acknowledges* that the creation of an enabling environment at the national and international levels, including through the full participation of women at all levels of decision-making, is necessary to ensure the full participation of women in economic activities, and calls upon States to remove obstacles to the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

17. *Reaffirms* that, in order to ensure the effective implementation of the strategic objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, the United Nations system should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective, including through the work of the Division for the Advancement of Women and of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the maintenance of gender units and focal points;

18. *Also reaffirms* that United Nations bodies that focus on gender issues, such as the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Children's Fund, have a critical role to play in the implementation of the objectives of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, and recognizes that gender specialists throughout the United Nations system also have an important role to play in this regard;

19. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts made by all relevant organizations of the United Nations system in promoting the role of women in conflict prevention and resolution;

20. *Recognizes* the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security and the need to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution, and urges the United Nations system and Governments to make further efforts in this regard and to take steps to ensure and support the full participation of women at all levels of decision-making and implementation in development activities and peace processes, including conflict prevention and resolution, post-conflict reconstruction, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peace-

building, as well as through the integration of a gender perspective into those United Nations processes;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all United Nations personnel and officials at Headquarters and in the field, especially in field operations, receive training so that they mainstream a gender perspective in their work, including gender impact analysis, and to ensure appropriate follow-up to such training;

22. *Requests* all bodies that deal with programme and budgetary matters, including the Committee for Programme and Coordination, to ensure that all programmes, medium-term plans and programme budgets visibly mainstream a gender perspective;

23. *Invites* States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to include information on measures taken to implement the outcome of the twenty-third special session, as well as the Beijing Platform for Action, in their reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women under article 18 of the Convention;

24. *Welcomes* the entry into force of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and urges States parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol;

25. *Urges* Member States to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, in particular the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to disseminate the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session as widely as possible in all the official languages of the United Nations;

27. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to integrate a gender perspective in his reporting to the General Assembly, in order to support gender-sensitive policy formulation;

28. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report annually to the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women on follow-up to and progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session with an assessment of progress made in mainstreaming a gender perspective within the United Nations system, including by providing information on key achievements, lessons learned and best practices, and to recommend further measures and strategies for future action within the United Nations system;

29. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century'".

## Critical areas of concern

### *Violence against women*

In response to General Assembly resolution 55/68 [YUN 2000, p. 1110], a July report of the Secretary-General [A/57/171] presented information on measures taken by 25 responding Member States and on UN system activities to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the Assembly's special session in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 1082].

Since the special session, Member States had put in place or contemplated specific legal measures, particularly regarding domestic violence. Various initiatives, strategies and action plans had been launched, aimed at, among other things, eradication, prevention, promotion, information, legislation, protection and welfare, education and research, enhancing the economic capacity of women, and monitoring. Efforts were made to provide psychological, legal, health care and other support to victims, to educate police, social workers and medical personnel, and to rehabilitate offenders. The report stated that the evaluation of existing legislation from a gender-sensitive perspective, as well as its impact, data collection on all forms of violence against women and girls, policy and programme assessment, research activities, and the establishment or strengthening of monitoring and implementation mechanisms continued to require priority attention and dedicated action. The Secretary-General concluded that measurable action plans were crucial for the short, medium and long term; information and coordinated analysis were needed; and ways to facilitate a useful exchange of emerging results, recommendations and experiences in the field were required.

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 77], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/57/550], adopted **resolution 57/181** without vote [agenda item 103].

### **Elimination of all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, which, inter alia, calls for international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

*Recalling also* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimi-

nation against Women, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted on 25 June 1993 by the World Conference on Human Rights and the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

*Recalling further* its resolution 55/68 of 4 December 2000,

*Reaffirming* the obligations of all States to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, as enunciated in the Charter, and reaffirming also the obligations of States parties under international human rights instruments, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,

*Reaffirming also* the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",

*Reaffirming further* the call for the elimination of violence against women and girls, especially all forms of commercial sexual exploitation as well as economic exploitation, including trafficking in women and children, female infanticide, crimes committed in the name of honour, crimes committed in the name of passion, racially motivated crimes, the abduction and sale of children, dowry-related violence and deaths, acid attacks and harmful traditional or customary practices, such as female genital mutilation and early and forced marriages,

*Stressing* the importance of the empowerment of women as a tool to eliminate all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;

2. *Expresses deep concern* at the persistence of various forms of violence and crimes against women in all parts of the world, especially all forms of commercial sexual exploitation as well as economic exploitation, including trafficking in women and children, female infanticide, crimes committed in the name of honour, crimes committed in the name of passion, racially motivated crimes, the abduction and sale of children, dowry-related violence and deaths, acid attacks and harmful traditional or customary practices, such as female genital mutilation and early and forced marriages;

3. *Stresses* that all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, are obstacles to the advancement and empowerment of women, and reaffirms that violence against women both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoy-

ment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

4. *Also stresses* the need to treat all forms of violence against women and girls of all ages as a criminal offence punishable by law, including violence based on all forms of discrimination;

5. *Welcomes* specific legal and comprehensive legislative measures being enacted or contemplated, in particular with regard to various forms of violence against women and girls;

6. *Also welcomes* in this regard the launching of various initiatives, strategies and action plans aimed at, among other things, eradication, prevention, promotion, information, legislation, protection and welfare, education and research, enhancement of the economic capacity of women and the monitoring of the various forms of violence against women;

7. *Reaffirms* that there is increased awareness of and commitment to preventing and combating violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session, welcomes in this context various legal, administrative and other measures taken by Governments for their prevention and elimination, and calls for high priority to be attached to the further strengthening of such measures;

8. *Urges* Member States to strengthen awareness and preventive measures for the elimination of all forms of violence against women, whether occurring in public or private life, by encouraging and supporting public campaigns to enhance awareness about the unacceptability and the social costs of violence against women, inter alia, through educational and media campaigns in cooperation with educators, community leaders and the electronic and print media;

9. *Expresses its appreciation* of the work being done by non-governmental organizations, including women's organizations, community-based organizations and individuals, in raising awareness about the economic, social and psychological costs of all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session, and in this regard encourages Governments to continue their support for the work of the non-governmental organizations in addressing this issue;

10. *Calls upon* States to fulfil their obligations under the relevant human rights instruments and to implement the Beijing Platform for Action as well as the outcome document of the twenty-third special session;

11. *Encourages* States parties to include in their reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and other relevant treaty bodies, wherever possible, sex-disaggregated data and information on measures taken or initiated to eliminate all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session;

12. *Urges* relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their mandates, to assist countries, upon their request, in their efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session, and in this regard expresses its appreciation of the work being done by the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Development

Fund for Women and other relevant funds and programmes aimed at preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls;

13. *Invites* the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences to further devote equal attention to all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session, in her work and her reports, within her mandate, to the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on this matter to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session.

(See also p. 745.)

#### Honour crimes

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 55/66 [YUN 2000, p. 1111], the Secretary-General, in a July report [A/57/169], described measures taken by 27 responding Member States and activities within the UN system to eliminate crimes against women committed in the name of honour.

The Secretary-General concluded that, although some Member States had taken measures to eliminate the problem, greater efforts were required. All reports of such violence should be investigated, documented and prosecuted; special training and resources should be provided to law enforcement and other relevant personnel, including judges; and support to victims and potential victims should be increased. The report stressed that it was crucial to have awareness-raising, information and education campaigns in order to change stereotypical societal attitudes and to prevent and eliminate violence committed in the name of honour.

**Communications.** In letters to the Secretary-General, Venezuela, on 23 September [A/57/432], and Argentina, on 15 October [A/C.3/57/4], refuted information in his report (see above) that said their penal codes allowed for partial or complete defence in cases of alleged crimes committed in defence of honour.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 77], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/57/549], adopted **resolution 57/179** without vote [agenda item 102].

#### Working towards the elimination of crimes against women committed in the name of honour

##### *The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* the obligation of all States to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to life, liberty and security of person, as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and reaffirming also the obligations of States parties under human rights instruments, in particular

the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

*Recalling* the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, as well as the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, and the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",

*Bearing in mind* that crimes against women committed in the name of honour are a human rights issue and that States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish the perpetrators of such crimes and to provide protection to the victims, and that not doing so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Stressing* the need to treat all forms of violence against women and girls, including crimes committed in the name of honour, as a criminal offence, punishable by law,

*Aware* that inadequate understanding of the root causes of all violence against women, including crimes committed in the name of honour, which take many different forms, and inadequate data on such violence hinder informed policy analysis, at both the domestic and the international level, and efforts to eliminate such violence,

*Deeply concerned* that women and girls are victims of these crimes, as described in the relevant sections of the reports of the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and notes in this regard the relevant parts of the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences,

*Emphasizing* that such crimes are incompatible with all religious and cultural values,

*Bearing in mind* Commission on Human Rights resolution 2002/52 of 23 April 2002,

*Emphasizing* that the elimination of crimes against women committed in the name of honour requires greater efforts and commitment on the part of Governments and the international community, inter alia, through international cooperation efforts, and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and that fundamental changes in societal attitude are required,

*Underlining* the importance of the empowerment of women and their effective participation in decision-making and policy-making processes as one of the critical tools to prevent and eliminate crimes against women committed in the name of honour,

##### 1. Welcomes:

(a) The activities and initiatives of States aimed at the elimination of crimes against women committed in the name of honour, including the adoption of amendments to relevant national laws relating to such crimes, the effective implementation of such laws and educational, social and other measures, including na-

tional information and awareness-raising campaigns, as well as activities and initiatives of States aimed at the elimination of all other forms of violence against women;

(b) The efforts, such as projects, undertaken by United Nations bodies, funds and programmes, including the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Development Fund for Women, to address the issue of crimes against women committed in the name of honour, and encourages them to coordinate their efforts;

(c) The work carried out by civil society, including non-governmental organizations, such as women's organizations, grass-roots movements and individuals, in raising awareness of such crimes and their harmful effects;

2. *Expresses its concern* that women continue to be victims of crimes committed in the name of honour, and at the continuing occurrence in all regions of the world of such violence, which takes many different forms, and at failures to prosecute and punish perpetrators;

3. *Calls upon* all States:

(a) To fulfil their obligations under the relevant international human rights instruments and to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly;

(b) To continue to intensify efforts to prevent and eliminate crimes against women committed in the name of honour, which take many different forms, by using legislative, administrative and programmatic measures;

(c) To investigate promptly and thoroughly, prosecute effectively and document cases of crimes against women committed in the name of honour and punish the perpetrators;

(d) To take all necessary measures to ensure that such crimes are not tolerated;

(e) To intensify efforts to raise awareness of the need to prevent and eliminate crimes against women committed in the name of honour, with the aim of changing the attitudes and behaviour that allow such crimes to be committed by involving, inter alia, community leaders;

(f) To encourage the efforts of the media to engage in awareness-raising campaigns;

(g) To encourage, support and implement measures and programmes aimed at increasing the knowledge and understanding of the causes and consequences of crimes against women committed in the name of honour, including the provision of training for those responsible for enforcing the law, such as police personnel and judicial and legal personnel, and to strengthen their capacity to respond to complaints of such crimes in an impartial and effective manner and take necessary measures to ensure the protection of actual and potential victims;

(h) To continue to support the work of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in addressing this issue and to strengthen cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

(i) To establish, strengthen or facilitate, where possible, support services to respond to the needs of actual

and potential victims by, inter alia, providing for them the appropriate protection, safe shelter, counselling, legal aid, health-care services, rehabilitation and reintegration into society;

(j) To address effectively complaints of crimes against women committed in the name of honour, inter alia, by creating, strengthening or facilitating institutional mechanisms so that victims and others can report such crimes in a safe and confidential environment;

(k) To gather and disseminate statistical information on the occurrence of such crimes, including information disaggregated by age;

(l) To include, if within their reporting obligations, information on legal and policy measures adopted and implemented in their efforts to prevent and eliminate crimes against women committed in the name of honour, where appropriate, in their reports to the human rights treaty bodies, including the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;

4. *Invites:*

(a) The international community, including relevant United Nations bodies, funds and programmes, inter alia, through technical assistance and advisory services programmes, to support the efforts of all countries, at their request, aimed at strengthening institutional capacity for preventing crimes against women committed in the name of honour and at addressing the root causes of such crimes;

(b) The relevant human rights treaty bodies to continue to address this issue, where appropriate;

(c) The Commission on the Status of Women to address this subject at its forty-seventh session under the priority theme "Women's human rights and the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, as defined in the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the special session of the General Assembly entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century'";

5. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his report on the issue of elimination of violence against women to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a substantive report on the subject of the present resolution, based on all available data, containing an analysis of the root causes of these crimes, supportive statistical data, where available, and information on initiatives taken by States.

### *Women and children in armed conflict*

#### *Women, peace and security*

On 8 March, the United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace (International Women's Day) was observed under the theme "Afghan Women Today: Realities and Opportunities".

**Report of Secretary-General.** In response to Security Council resolution 1325(2000) [YUN 2000, p. 1113], the Secretary-General, in an October report on women, peace and security [S/2002/1154], recommended that the Council identify and uti-

lize local sources of information on the impact of armed conflict and of peace operations on women and girls, and the roles and contributions of women and girls in conflict situations; condemn human rights violations of women and girls during armed conflict, bring the violations to an end and call on parties to adhere to their obligations under international human rights law and refugee law; include amnesty provisions in conflict settlement agreements that excluded impunity from war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, including gender-based crimes; monitor gender sensitivity and consistency regarding judicial or quasi-judicial mechanisms established by the Council as part of conflict settlement arrangements; and ensure that future ad hoc tribunals created by the Council build on existing statutes and include judges and advisers with expertise on issues, such as violations of the rights of women and girls, including gender-based and sexual violence, and that the prosecutors respect the interests and personal circumstances of women and girls victims and witnesses. (See also p. 67 for the report's recommendations on the gender dimensions of peace processes and women's role in peacekeeping operations.)

#### SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 25 July, the Security Council held an open debate on women, peace and security [S/PV.4589 & Corr.1].

On 31 October [meeting 4641], following consultations among Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2002/32** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council reaffirms its commitment to the continuing and full implementation of resolution 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000, and welcomes the increasing focus over the last two years on the situation of women and girls in armed conflict, and recalls the statement by its President of 31 October 2001 and the meetings held on 25 July and 28 October 2002 as expressions of that commitment.

The Council welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on women, peace and security and expresses its intention to study the recommendations contained therein. The Council also welcomes the efforts of the United Nations system, Member States, civil society and other relevant actors to promote equal participation of women in peace and security.

The Council remains concerned about the slow progress in the appointment of women as special representatives and envoys of the Secretary-General, and urges the Secretary-General to increase the number of women serving as high-level representatives to achieve the overall goal of gender balance. The Council also urges Member States to continue to provide candidates to the Secretary-General for inclusion in a database.

The Council, reaffirming the importance of gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping operations

and post-conflict reconstruction, undertakes to integrate gender perspectives into the mandates of all peacekeeping missions, and reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to ensure that all reports submitted to the Council in accordance with such mandates systematically address gender perspectives. The Council also requests the Secretary-General to provide systematic training of all staff in peacekeeping operations on gender perspectives, and to integrate gender perspectives into all standard operating procedures, manuals and other guidance materials for peacekeeping operations.

The Council considers that the appointment of gender advisers at sufficiently senior levels at Headquarters is necessary. The Council notes that some progress has been made in gender mainstreaming at mission level, specifically through the establishment of gender units and gender advisers, but that more remains to be done in order to ensure that gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping operations and post-conflict reconstruction is thorough and effective, and applied systematically.

The Council undertakes to integrate gender perspectives into the terms of reference of its visits and missions to countries and regions in conflict. To that end, the Council requests the Secretary-General to establish a database of gender specialists as well as women's groups and networks in countries and regions in conflict, and to include gender specialists in the teams where relevant.

The Council recognizes the vital role of women in promoting peace, particularly in preserving social order and educating for peace. The Council encourages its Member States and the Secretary-General to establish regular contacts with local women's groups and networks in order to utilize their knowledge of both the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, including as victims and ex-combatants, and of peacekeeping operations, to ensure that those groups are actively involved in reconstruction processes, particularly at decision-making levels.

The Council, recalling its resolutions 1265(1999) of 17 September 1999, 1296(2000) of 19 April 2000, 1325(2000) and 1379(2001) of 20 November 2001, encourages Member States, the entities of the United Nations system, civil society and other relevant actors to develop clear strategies and action plans with goals and timetables, on the integration of gender perspectives in humanitarian operations, rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes, including monitoring mechanisms, and also to develop targeted activities, focused on the specific constraints facing women and girls in post-conflict situations, such as their lack of land and property rights and access to and control over economic resources.

The Council deplores the continuing occurrence of sexual exploitation, including trafficking, of women and girls in the context of peacekeeping operations and humanitarian activities, and calls for the further development and full implementation of codes of conduct and of disciplinary procedures to prevent such exploitation. The Council encourages all actors, in particular troop-contributing countries, to enhance monitoring mechanisms and to investigate and prosecute effectively cases of alleged misconduct.

The Council condemns all violations of the human rights of women and girls in situations of armed conflict and the use of sexual violence, including as a strategic and tactical weapon of war, which, *inter alia*, places women and girls at increased risk of contracting sexually-transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS.

The Council decides to remain actively seized of this matter and requests the Secretary-General to prepare a follow-up report on the full implementation of resolution 1325(2000) to be presented to the Council in October 2004.

#### Women and children taken hostage

In response to a 2001 request of the Commission on the Status of Women [YUN 2001, p. 1060], the Secretary-General, in a report on follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the General Assembly's special session in 2000 [E/CN.6/2002/4], summarized information received from 11 Member States and relevant UN system entities on the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts. Concerned by the grouping of women and children together in a single report, one Member State expressed the view that the Commission should limit itself to fulfilling the mandate arising from the Platform for Action and the outcome of the Assembly's special session, and to taking other action specifically in pursuit of the advancement of women. The Secretary-General observed that, in the light of those views and of the work of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (see p. 758), the Commission might wish to review the focus of future reports.

In a 15 March resolution [E/2002/27 (res. 46/1)], the Commission condemned violent acts in contravention of international humanitarian law against civilians in areas of armed conflict, and called for the immediate release of women and children taken hostage. All parties to armed conflicts were urged to respect the norms of international humanitarian law in armed conflict, to take measures to protect civilians, to release immediately women and children taken hostage, and to provide their safe and unimpeded access to humanitarian assistance. The Commission requested the Secretary-General and all relevant international organizations to facilitate the immediate release of civilian women and children taken hostage. The Secretary-General was requested to report in 2004.

On 25 March [dec. 46/103], the Commission took note of the Secretary-General's report.

(See also pp. 744 and 758.)

#### The girl child

On 18 December [meeting 77], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/57/552], adopted **resolution 57/189** without vote [agenda item 105].

#### The girl child

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 56/139 of 19 December 2001 and all relevant resolutions, including the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women, in particular those relevant to the girl child,

*Reaffirming* the equal rights of women and men as enshrined, *inter alia*, in the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

*Welcoming* the entry into force of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,

*Recalling* the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted on 8 September 2000,

*Welcoming* the adoption by the General Assembly at its special session on children, on 10 May 2002, of the outcome document entitled "A world fit for children",

*Reaffirming* the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session,

*Recalling* all other relevant United Nations conferences, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", and the outcome documents of the recent five-year reviews of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,

*Reaffirming* the Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum,

*Recalling* the Declaration and Agenda for Action adopted at the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, held at Stockholm from 27 to 31 August 1996, and welcoming the Yokohama Global Commitment 2001 adopted at the Second World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, held at Yokohama, Japan, from 17 to 20 December 2001,

*Recalling also* the International Conference on War-Affected Children, held at Winnipeg, Canada, from 10 to 17 September 2000, and affirming the ongoing importance of the Winnipeg Agenda for War-Affected Children for all children affected by armed conflict,

*Recognizing* the need to achieve gender equality to ensure a just and equitable world for girls,

*Deeply concerned* about discrimination against the girl child and the violation of the rights of the girl child, which often result in less access for girls to education, nutrition and physical and mental health care and in girls enjoying fewer of the rights, opportunities and benefits of childhood and adolescence than boys and often being subjected to various forms of cultural,

social, sexual and economic exploitation and to violence and harmful practices, such as female infanticide, incest, early marriage, prenatal sex selection and female genital mutilation,

*Deeply concerned also* that, in situations of poverty, war and armed conflict, girl children are among those most affected and that their potential for full development is thus limited,

*Concerned* that the girl child has furthermore become the victim of sexually transmitted diseases and increasingly of the human immunodeficiency virus, which have a serious impact on the quality of her life and leave her open to further discrimination,

*Convinced* that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance reveal themselves in a differentiated manner for women and girls and can be among the factors leading to a deterioration in their living conditions, poverty, violence, multiple forms of discrimination and limitation or denial of their human rights,

1. *Stresses* the need for full and urgent implementation of the rights of the girl child as guaranteed to her under all human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as well as the need for universal ratification of those instruments;

2. *Urges* States to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

3. *Urges* all States to take all necessary measures and to institute legal reforms to ensure the full and equal enjoyment by the girl child of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, to take effective action against violations of those rights and freedoms and to base programmes and policies for the girl child on the rights of the child;

4. *Urges* all Governments and the United Nations system to strengthen efforts bilaterally and with international organizations and private sector donors in order to achieve the goals of the World Education Forum, in particular that of eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005, and to implement the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative as a means of reaching this goal, and reaffirms the commitment contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration in this regard;

5. *Calls upon* all States to take measures to address the obstacles that continue to affect the achievement of the goals set forth in the Beijing Platform for Action, as contained in paragraph 33 of the further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, where appropriate, including the strengthening of national mechanisms to implement policies and programmes for the girl child and, in some cases, to enhance coordination among responsible institutions for the realization of the human rights of girls, as indicated in the further actions and initiatives;

6. *Urges* States to enact and strictly enforce laws to ensure that marriage is entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses, to enact and strictly enforce laws concerning the minimum legal age of consent and the minimum age for marriage and

to raise the minimum age for marriage where necessary;

7. *Also urges* States to fulfil their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as well as the commitment to implement the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century";

8. *Urges* all States to enact and enforce legislation to protect girls from all forms of violence and exploitation, including female infanticide and prenatal sex selection, female genital mutilation, rape, domestic violence, incest, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, child prostitution and child pornography, trafficking and forced labour, and to develop age-appropriate safe and confidential programmes and medical, social and psychological support services to assist girls who are subjected to violence;

9. *Urges* States to formulate comprehensive, multi-disciplinary and coordinated national plans, programmes or strategies to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, which should be widely disseminated and should provide targets and timetables for implementation, as well as effective domestic enforcement procedures through the establishment of monitoring mechanisms involving all parties concerned, including consultations with women's organizations, giving attention to the recommendations relating to the girl child of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences;

10. *Calls upon* all States and international and non-governmental organizations, individually and collectively, to implement further the Beijing Platform for Action, in particular the strategic objectives relating to the girl child, and the further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

11. *Urges* States to take special measures for the protection of war-affected girls and in particular to protect them from sexually transmitted diseases, such as the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), gender-based violence, including rape and sexual abuse, and sexual exploitation, torture, abduction and forced labour, paying special attention to refugee and displaced girls, and to take into account the special needs of the war-affected girl child in the delivery of humanitarian assistance and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes;

12. *Urges* all States and the international community to respect, protect and promote the rights of the child, taking into account the particular vulnerabilities of the girl child in pre-conflict, conflict and post-conflict situations, and calls for special initiatives designed to address all of the rights and needs of war-affected girls;

13. *Calls upon* Governments, civil society, including the media, and non-governmental organizations to promote human rights education and the full respect for and enjoyment of the human rights of the girl child, inter alia, through the translation, production and dissemination of age-appropriate information ma-

terial on those rights to all sectors of society, in particular to children;

14. *Calls upon* States and international and non-governmental organizations to mobilize all necessary resources, support and efforts to realize the goals, strategic objectives and actions set out in the Beijing Platform for Action and the further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as Chairman of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to ensure that all organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, individually and collectively, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Labour Organization, take into account the rights and the particular needs of the girl child in the country programme of cooperation in accordance with the national priorities, including through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

16. *Requests* all human rights treaty bodies, special procedures and other human rights mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights and its Sub-commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights to adopt regularly and systematically a gender perspective in the implementation of their mandates and to include in their reports information on the qualitative analysis of violations of the human rights of women and girls, and encourages the strengthening of cooperation and coordination in that regard;

17. *Stresses* the importance of a substantive assessment of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action with a life-cycle perspective so as to identify gaps and obstacles in the implementation process and to develop further actions for the achievement of the goals of the Platform for Action;

18. *Requests* Member States to ensure that, in preventing and addressing HIV/AIDS, particular attention is paid to the girl child infected and affected by HIV/AIDS and to provide the Secretary-General with information in this regard to help in the preparation of his report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session, as requested in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS.

(See also p. 747.)

### *Women and human rights*

#### Trafficking in women and girls

In response to General Assembly resolution 55/67 [YUN 2000, p. 1117], the Secretary-General, in a July report [A/57/170], described measures taken by Member States, the UN system and other international bodies to combat trafficking in women and girls.

The Secretary-General stated that, despite actions taken at the national, regional and international levels on the trafficking in persons, particularly women and girls, and on their sexual exploitation, much remained to be done. Future action by Governments required political will and commitment; a comprehensive and multi-disciplinary approach towards prevention; the collaboration of judicial and law enforcement personnel, migration authorities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society; measures to discourage traffickers; protection of and assistance to victims; and training for police officers, government officials, and customs and border police. International, regional, subregional and bilateral agreements should ensure and facilitate the prosecution of offenders; States should introduce legislation incorporating extraterritorial provisions to facilitate the prosecution of traffickers who may operate from abroad; and guidelines on trafficking for different sectors should be developed and implemented.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 77], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/57/549], adopted **resolution 57/176** without vote [agenda item 102].

#### **Trafficking in women and girls**

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* the principles set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the International Covenants on Human Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,

*Welcoming* the adoption by the General Assembly of the two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, which entered into force on 18 January 2002,

*Welcoming also* the adoption by the General Assembly of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which entered into force on 22 December 2000,

*Recalling* all previous resolutions on the problem of trafficking in women and girls adopted by the General Assembly, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as well as the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, the conclusions on violence against women adopted on 13 March 1998 by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-second session and the recommendations of the Working Group on Contem-

porary Forms of Slavery adopted on 21 August 1998 by the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities at its fiftieth session,

*Recalling also* the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in particular the resolve expressed by heads of State and Government to intensify efforts to fight transnational organized crime in all its dimensions, including trafficking in human beings,

*Reaffirming* the outcomes and commitments pertaining to trafficking in women and girls of recent United Nations conferences and summits, including the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the special session of the General Assembly on children and their follow-up processes,

*Acknowledging* the inclusion of gender-related crimes in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which entered into force on 1 July 2002,

*Welcoming* the adoption by the General Assembly in November 2000 of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, in particular the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air,

*Recognizing* the need to address the impact of globalization on the problem of trafficking in women and children, in particular girls,

*Reaffirming* that sexual violence and trafficking in women and girls for purposes of economic exploitation, sexual exploitation through prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation and contemporary forms of slavery are serious violations of human rights,

*Seriously concerned* at the increasing number of women and children from developing countries and from some countries with economies in transition who are being trafficked to developed countries, as well as within and between regions and States, and acknowledging that the problem of trafficking also includes the victimizing of boys,

*Recognizing* that victims of trafficking are particularly exposed to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

*Acknowledging* that women and children who are victims of trafficking are further disadvantaged and marginalized by a general lack of information or awareness and recognition of their human rights and the fact that they are victims, as well as by the obstacles they meet in gaining access to information and recourse mechanisms in cases of violation of their rights, and that special measures are required for their protection and to increase their awareness,

*Recognizing* the importance of bilateral, subregional and regional cooperation mechanisms and initiatives of Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to address the problem of trafficking in women and children within their region, in particular girls,

*Welcoming* the efforts of Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in developing programmes to combat trafficking in human beings, in particular women and girls,

*Acknowledging* the work being done by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in com-

piling information on the scale and complexity of the problem of trafficking, in providing protection and assistance for trafficked women and children, and in effecting their voluntary return to their countries of origin,

*Recognizing* that global efforts, including international cooperation and technical assistance programmes, to eradicate trafficking in persons, in particular women and children, demand the strong political commitment and the active cooperation of all Governments of countries of origin, transit and destination,

*Recognizing also* that a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach to prevention, healing and reintegration is required and that all actors, including judicial and law enforcement personnel, migration authorities, victims of trafficking and their families, non-governmental organizations and civil society, should collaborate in the development of such an approach,

*Deeply concerned* about the unabated use of new information technologies, including the Internet, for purposes of exploitation of the prostitution of others and for child pornography, paedophilia and any other forms of sexual exploitation of children, trafficking in women as brides and sex tourism,

*Gravely concerned* at the increasing activities of transnational criminal organizations and others that profit from international trafficking in women and children without regard to dangerous and inhumane conditions and in flagrant violation of domestic laws and international standards,

*Stressing once again* the need for Governments to provide standard humanitarian treatment to trafficked persons consistent with human rights standards,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;

2. *Welcomes* the steps taken by human rights treaty bodies, the special rapporteurs and subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Human Rights, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, other United Nations bodies and international, intergovernmental and governmental organizations, within their mandates, as well as non-governmental organizations, to address the problem of trafficking in women and girls, and encourages them to continue doing so and to share their knowledge and best practices as widely as possible;

3. *Also welcomes* the decision of the Commission on the Status of Women to consider at its forty-seventh session the priority theme "Women's human rights and the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, as defined in the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the special session of the General Assembly entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century'", which will include issues relating to trafficking in women and girls;

4. *Urges* Governments to take appropriate measures to address the root factors, including external factors, that encourage trafficking in women and girls for prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex, forced marriages and forced labour, in order to eliminate trafficking in women, including by strengthening existing legislation with a view to providing better protection of the rights of women and girls and to pun-

ishing perpetrators, through both criminal and civil measures;

5. *Also urges* Governments to devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in women and girls through a comprehensive anti-trafficking strategy consisting of, inter alia, capacity-building, legislative measures, prevention campaigns, information exchange, assistance and protection for and reintegration of the victims and prosecution of all the offenders involved, including intermediaries, and to draw up, as appropriate, national action plans and programmes to improve the protection of trafficked women and girls;

6. *Further urges* Governments to consider signing and ratifying relevant United Nations legal instruments such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, in particular the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, as well as the Convention concerning Discrimination in respect of Employment and Occupation, 1958 (Convention No. 111) and the Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 (Convention No. 182), of the International Labour Organization;

7. *Encourages* Member States to conclude bilateral, subregional, regional and international agreements, as well as to undertake initiatives, including regional initiatives, to address the problem of trafficking in women and girls, such as the Action Plan for the Asia-Pacific region of the Asian Regional Initiative against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, the initiatives of the European Union on a comprehensive European policy and programmes on trafficking in human beings, as expressed in the conclusions of the European Council at its meeting held at Tampere, Finland, on 15 and 16 October 1999, and the activities of the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the International Organization for Migration in this field;

8. *Calls upon* all Governments to criminalize trafficking in women and children, in particular girls, in all its forms, to condemn and penalize all those offenders involved, including intermediaries, whether local or foreign, through the competent national authorities, either in the country of origin of the offender or in the country in which the abuse occurs, in accordance with due process of law, while ensuring that the victims of those practices are not penalized for being trafficked, and to penalize persons in authority found guilty of sexually assaulting victims of trafficking in their custody;

9. *Invites* Governments to consider setting up or strengthening a national coordinating mechanism, for example, a national rapporteur or an inter-agency body, with the participation of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to encourage the exchange of information and to report on data, root

causes, factors and trends in violence against women, in particular trafficking;

10. *Encourages* Governments and relevant United Nations bodies, within existing resources, to take appropriate measures to raise public awareness of the issue of trafficking, particularly in women and girls, as well as the laws, regulations and penalties relating to this issue, and to emphasize that trafficking is a crime, in order to reduce the demand for trafficked women and children;

11. *Urges* concerned Governments, in cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to support and allocate resources for programmes to strengthen preventive action, in particular education and campaigns to increase public awareness of the issue at the national and grass-roots levels;

12. *Calls upon* concerned Governments to allocate resources, as appropriate, to provide comprehensive programmes for the physical, psychological and social recovery of victims of trafficking, including through job training, legal assistance and health care, and by taking measures to cooperate with non-governmental organizations to provide for the social, medical and psychological care of the victims;

13. *Encourages* Governments, in cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to undertake campaigns aimed at clarifying opportunities, limitations and rights in the event of migration so as to enable women to make informed decisions and to prevent them from becoming victims of trafficking;

14. *Also encourages* Governments to intensify collaboration with non-governmental organizations to develop and implement programmes for effective counselling, training and reintegration into society of victims of trafficking, and programmes that provide shelter and helplines to victims or potential victims;

15. *Calls upon* Governments to take steps to ensure that the treatment of victims of trafficking, especially women and girls, as well as all measures taken against trafficking in persons, in particular those that affect the victims of such trafficking, are applied with full respect for the human rights of those victims and are consistent with internationally recognized principles of non-discrimination, including the prohibition of racial discrimination and the availability of appropriate legal redress;

16. *Invites* Governments to take steps, including witness protection programmes, to enable women who are victims of trafficking to make complaints to the police or other authorities, as appropriate, and to be available when required by the criminal justice system, and to ensure that during this time women have access to protection and social, medical, financial and legal assistance, as appropriate;

17. *Also invites* Governments to consider preventing, within the legal framework and in accordance with national policies, victims of trafficking, in particular women and girls, from being prosecuted for their illegal entry or residence, bearing in mind that they are victims of exploitation;

18. *Further invites* Governments to encourage Internet service providers to adopt or strengthen self-regulatory measures to promote the responsible use of the Internet with a view to eliminating trafficking in women and children, in particular girls;

19. *Invites* the business sector, in particular the tourism and telecommunications industries, including mass media organizations, to cooperate with Governments in eliminating trafficking in women and children, in particular girls;

20. *Stresses* the need for a global approach to eradicate trafficking in women and children and the importance, in this regard, of systematic data collection and comprehensive studies using common methodology and internationally defined indicators, which need to be developed, to make it possible to gather relevant and comparable figures, and encourages Governments to develop systematic data-collection methods using such common methodology and indicators and to update continuously information on trafficking in women and girls, including the analysis of the modus operandi of trafficking syndicates;

21. *Urges* Governments to strengthen national programmes to combat trafficking in women and girls through sustained bilateral, regional and international cooperation, taking into account innovative approaches and best practices, and invites Governments, United Nations bodies and organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to undertake collaborative and joint research and studies on trafficking in women and girls that can serve as a basis for policy formulation or change;

22. *Invites* Governments, once again, with the support of the United Nations, and taking into account current research and materials on traumatic stress and gender-sensitive counselling techniques, to formulate training manuals for law enforcement and medical personnel and judicial officers who handle cases of trafficked women and girls, with a view to sensitizing them to the special needs of victims;

23. *Urges* Governments to provide or strengthen training for law enforcement, immigration and other relevant officials in the prevention of trafficking in persons, which should focus on methods used in preventing such trafficking, prosecuting the traffickers and protecting the rights of victims, including protecting the victims from traffickers, to ensure that the training also takes into account the need to consider human rights and child- and gender-sensitive issues, and to encourage cooperation with non-governmental organizations, other relevant organizations and other elements of civil society;

24. *Invites* States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenants on Human Rights to include information and statistics on trafficking in women and girls as part of their national reports to their respective committees and to work towards developing a common methodology and statistics to obtain comparable data;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to compile, as reference and guidance, successful interventions and strategies in addressing the various dimensions of the problem of trafficking in women and children, in particular girls, based on reports, research and other materials from within the United Nations, including the Office on Drugs and Crime of the Secretariat, as well as from outside the United Nations, and to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session;

26. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to include in his report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session proposals for a future international/United Nations year against trafficking in persons, especially women and girls, with a view to protecting their dignity and human rights.

(See also p. 748.)

#### Women in Afghanistan

**Report of Secretary-General.** In response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/3 [YUN 2001, p. 1065], the Secretary-General submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women a January report on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan [E/CN.6/2002/5]. The report examined developments during 2001 prior to the attacks of 11 September 2001 in the United States [YUN 2001, p. 60], as well as UN activities during that period, and developments in the latter part of that year. The military intervention in Afghanistan by the United States and its allies [*ibid.*, p. 259] had led to the fall of the Taliban, which in turn presented new opportunities for women to reclaim their rights as active participants in governance and in rehabilitation and reconstruction activities. According to the report, women had been discriminated against and marginalized even before the Taliban came to power, and the civil war and the militarization of society had perpetuated a culture of violence towards them, which was likely to continue during peacetime. It recommended action by the Afghan Interim and Transitional Authorities regarding women's full participation in political decision-making, and by the UN system, donor Governments and civil society regarding gender dimensions of relief, reconstruction and development.

**CEDAW action.** In 2002 [A/57/38 (dec. 26/1)], the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) adopted a statement of solidarity with Afghan women.

#### ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 24 July [meeting 37], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women [E/2002/27], adopted **resolution 2002/4** without vote [agenda item 14 (a)].

#### Situation of women and girls in Afghanistan

##### *The Economic and Social Council,*

*Guided* by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto on the in-

volvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session, accepted humanitarian rules as set out in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and other instruments of human rights and international law,

*Recalling* that Afghanistan is a party to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and that it has signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

*Reaffirming* that all States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and must fulfil the international legal obligations that they have undertaken,

*Recalling* the importance of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000, on women and peace and security, as well as the statement made by the President of the Council on 13 October 2001, on women and peace and security,

*Welcoming* the Agreement on Provisional Arrangements in Afghanistan pending the Re-establishment of Permanent Government Institutions, signed in Bonn, Germany, on 5 December 2001,

*Welcoming also* the efforts of Afghan women to participate actively in civil society, as evidenced by the Afghan Women's Summit for Democracy, held in Brussels on 4 and 5 December 2001, the round table on building women's leadership in Afghanistan convened by the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the Government of Belgium, held in Brussels on 10 and 11 December 2001, and the Brussels Action Plan on Afghan women's participation in the reconstruction of Afghanistan, adopted at the round table,

*Welcoming further* the international commitments expressed at the International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance to Afghanistan co-chaired by the Government of Japan, the Government of the United States of America, the European Union and the Government of Saudi Arabia, held in Tokyo on 21 and 22 January 2002,

*Welcoming* the holding of the Afghan women's consultation in Kabul from 5 to 7 March 2002 under the auspices of the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the celebration of International Women's Day in Afghanistan on 8 March 2002, as well as the holding of the workshop on human rights in Kabul on 9 March 2002 under the auspices of the Afghan Interim Authority and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,

*Welcoming also* the efforts of Afghanistan's neighbouring countries, which have hosted millions of Afghan refugees, especially women and children, and have provided humanitarian assistance in many areas, such as education, health and other basic services,

*Welcoming further* the role of the international humanitarian organizations in providing humanitarian assistance to Afghan refugees,

*Encouraging* the international community to continue providing refugee-hosting countries with various forms of assistance and cooperation so that they can further assist Afghan refugees,

*Bearing in mind* the desirability of a voluntary return of Afghan refugees to their country in safety and with dignity,

*Welcoming* developments in Afghanistan that will contribute to the creation of conditions that will allow all Afghans, especially women and girls, to enjoy their inalienable human rights and fundamental freedoms and participate fully in the reconstruction and development of their country,

*Welcoming also* the commitment of the Afghan Interim Administration to the active participation of Afghan women in political, economic and social life, to the education of girls as well as boys and to the right of women to work outside the home,

*Welcoming further* the inclusion of women in the Afghan Interim Administration and in the twenty-one-member Special Independent Commission for the Convening of the Emergency Loya Jirga, and stressing the importance of the full and effective participation of women in all decision-making processes regarding the future of Afghanistan,

*Welcoming* the signing of the Declaration of the Essential Rights of Afghan Women by the Chairman of the Afghan Interim Administration,

*Welcoming also* the fact that the Immediate and Transitional Assistance Programme for the Afghan People 2002 reflects the needs of, and the importance of the role to be taken by, women and girls in the process of peace-building, reconstruction and development,

*Encouraging* the members of the international community, including non-governmental organizations, to continue efforts to draw attention to the situation of Afghan women and girls,

*Recognizing* the importance of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls in Afghanistan,

*Recognizing also* that the effective participation of women in civil, cultural, economic, political and social life should be promoted and protected throughout Afghanistan,

*Recognizing further* that Afghan women are primary stakeholders and agents of change, who must have the opportunity to identify their own needs and priorities in all sectors of society as full partners in the rebuilding of their society,

*Recognizing* the need for the international community to ensure that a gender mainstreaming approach is adopted in all its activities and that it proceed in a gender-sensitive way that gives Afghan women a key role in the process,

*Recognizing also* that non-governmental organizations are playing a valuable role both inside and outside Afghanistan in the provision of basic services and in the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people and that they continue to be important partners in the recovery and reconstruction process,

*Mindful* of the continued fragile humanitarian situation in Afghanistan and the importance of ensuring

continued humanitarian assistance and protection for Afghan civilians,

*Emphasizing* that a safe environment, free from violence, discrimination and abuse for all Afghans, is essential for a viable and sustainable recovery and reconstruction process,

1. *Welcomes* the commitments made by the Afghan Interim Authority to recognize, protect, promote and act in accordance with all human rights and fundamental freedoms, in accordance with international human rights instruments, and to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law;

2. *Welcomes with appreciation* the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on the Status of Women on discrimination against women and girls in Afghanistan, including the conclusions and recommendations contained therein;

3. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Ministry of Women's Affairs as an integral part of the Afghan Interim Administration, and urges the Interim Authority to provide the necessary assistance to enable the Ministry to function effectively, and encourages the international community to provide funding and technical assistance so that the Ministry can fulfil its task in promoting gender equality and develop the capacity to act as a catalyst for gender mainstreaming throughout the Government;

4. *Urges* the Afghan Interim Authority and the future Afghan Transitional Authority:

(a) To respect fully the equal human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls in accordance with international human rights law;

(b) To give high priority to the issue of ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and consider signing and ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention;

(c) To repeal all legislative and other measures that discriminate against women and girls, as well as those that impede the realization of their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(d) To enable the full, equal, and effective participation of women and girls in civil, cultural, economic, political and social life throughout the country at all levels;

(e) To ensure the equal right of women and girls to education without discrimination, the reopening of schools and the admission of women and girls to all levels of education;

(f) To respect the equal right of women to work and promote their reintegration in employment in all sectors and at all levels of the Afghan society;

(g) To protect the right of women and girls to security of person and bring to justice those responsible for violence against women and girls;

(h) To protect the right to freedom of movement for women and girls;

(i) To respect the effective and equal access of women and girls to the facilities necessary to protect their right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health in accordance with Afghanistan's obligations under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

(j) To reaffirm full support for the participation of women in the Special Independent Commission for

the Convening of the Emergency Loya Jirga and in the Loya Jirga itself;

(k) To reaffirm the equal rights of women to own land and other property, inter alia, through the right to inheritance, and undertake administrative reforms and other necessary measures to give women the same right as men to credit, capital, appropriate technologies and access to markets and information;

(l) To provide women with an equal opportunity for employment in all ministries and commissions, including the Judicial Commission, the Civil Service Commission and the Human Rights Commission, and take steps so that the work of the Afghanistan Human Rights Commission is underpinned by international human rights standards and integrates women's rights in its mandate;

(m) To provide a safe environment free from violence to facilitate the voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons;

(n) To conduct a review of the impact on women and girls of the existing legal system in order to facilitate appropriate remedial measures with regard to family law, property and inheritance rights;

5. *Encourages* the continuing efforts of the United Nations and its agencies, guided by Security Council resolution 1325(2000) on women and peace and security, to:

(a) Fully support the Afghan Interim Authority and the future Afghan Transitional Authority regarding the participation of women;

(b) Provide support to ministries to help develop their capacity to mainstream a gender perspective into their programmes;

(c) Support capacity-building for Afghan women to enable them to participate fully in all sectors;

(d) Provide technical and other relevant assistance so that the judicial system has the capacity to adhere to international standards of human rights;

(e) Develop and implement a programme of human rights education to promote respect for and understanding of human rights, including the human rights of women;

(f) Support measures to hold accountable those who are responsible for gross violations of women's human rights in the past and to ensure that full investigations are conducted and perpetrators are brought to justice;

6. *Invites* the United Nations system, international and non-governmental organizations, and multilateral and bilateral donors:

(a) To ensure a human rights-based approach and gender mainstreaming in all programmes and operations, based on the principles of non-discrimination and equality between women and men, and ensure that women benefit equally with men from such programmes in all sectors;

(b) To develop comprehensive and coherent gender policy and programmes in Afghanistan, apply good practices of gender budgeting and strengthen inter-agency mechanisms for coordination and cooperation;

(c) To ensure the full and effective participation of Afghan women in all stages of humanitarian assistance, recovery, reconstruction and development, including planning, programme development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation;

(d) To employ Afghan women, inter alia, in management positions, promote security in their employ-

ment with the assistance community and respect the right to freedom of movement for women;

(e) To support the elements of civil society active in the field of human rights, in particular women's rights;

(f) To ensure that all United Nations international and national personnel, prior to beginning their service, receive appropriate training on the history, culture and traditions of Afghanistan and are fully familiar with and guided by international standards of the human rights of women and girls;

7. *Encourages* the continuing efforts of the United Nations, international and non-governmental organizations and donors to ensure that all United Nations-assisted programmes in Afghanistan are formulated and coordinated in such a way as to promote and ensure the participation of women in those programmes and that women benefit equally with men from such programmes;

8. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts of United Nations organizations to mainstream a gender perspective and their efforts to reappoint a senior gender adviser in the Office of the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator or the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General;

9. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to provide financial and technical assistance, including human rights education, to protect the human rights of women and girls and to support initiatives to end violence against them and to increase their economic security, as well as to strengthen the capacity of Afghan women to participate fully and effectively in conflict resolution and peace-building efforts and in civil, political, economic, cultural and social life;

10. *Invites* the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan to continue to give special attention to the human rights of women and girls, to incorporate a gender perspective in his work and to cooperate with other special rapporteurs of the Commission;

11. *Calls upon* the Afghan Interim Administration and the future Afghan Transitional Authority to take all necessary measures to ensure the safety and security of all humanitarian workers in Afghanistan, whether employed by Governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations or the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, so that they can, regardless of gender, carry out their work unhindered;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-seventh session a report of progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

(See also p. 746.)

#### Palestinian women

A January report of the Secretary-General [E/CN.6/2002/3] to the Commission on the Status of Women reviewed the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women, during the period from September 2000 to September 2001.

The report, which was based on information from UN bodies monitoring the situation in the occupied territories and refugee camps, stated that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict had a significant negative effect on Palestinian women. Many women were killed, wounded and/or lost family members. In addition, their economic and social conditions were affected as poverty rates increased and access to such basic services as health and education were curtailed. The Palestinian Authority, civil society groups and UN system organizations made efforts to improve the conditions of Palestinian women and to encourage a negotiated solution. UN organizations and specialized agencies shifted their focus from long-term projects to humanitarian assistance programmes to meet urgent requirements.

The Secretary-General stated that it was essential that UN entities continued to operate in the occupied territory and refugee camps, and strengthened their efforts on the advancement of women. He called for new efforts to end the violent confrontations in the occupied territory; the involvement of women in conflict-resolution and peace-building initiatives; and their full participation in decision-making processes at all levels. The Secretary-General proposed that the gender perspective should continue to be fully integrated in international assistance programmes and be introduced in all UN studies and reports on the situation of the Palestinian people.

On 24 July, the Economic and Social Council, in **resolution 2002/25**, called on Israel to facilitate the return of displaced Palestinian women and children to their homes and requested the Secretary-General to assist Palestinian women by all available means (see p. 453).

#### Older women in society

The Second World Assembly on Ageing (Madrid, Spain, 8-12 April) [A/CONF.197/9] adopted the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, in which Governments, among other things, noted that older women outnumbered older men and that the situation of older women must be a priority for policy action.

(For further details and for the Secretary-General's report on follow-up to the World Assembly, see pp. 1193 and 1196.)

**CEDAW action.** In 2002 [A/57/38 (dec. 26/III)], CEDAW adopted a statement on ending discrimination against older women through the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 34/180 [YUN 1979, p. 895].

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 77], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/57/549], adopted **resolution 57/177** without vote [agenda item 102].

**Situation of older women in society***The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* the obligations of all States to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms as stated in the Charter of the United Nations, and guided by the purposes and principles of human rights instruments,

*Recalling* its resolution 44/76 of 8 December 1989 on elderly women and its resolution 56/126 of 19 December 2001 on the situation of older women in society, Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/23 of 4 May 1982 on elderly women and the World Assembly on Ageing and Council resolutions 1986/26 of 23 May 1986 and 1989/38 of 24 May 1989 on elderly women, and Commission on the Status of Women resolution 36/4 of 20 March 1992 on the integration of elderly women into development,

*Recalling also* the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, in particular their provisions regarding older women,

*Reaffirming* that the Political Declaration and Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, provide a broad spectrum of social, political and economic recommendations to improve the conditions of older women,

*Recognizing* that older women outnumber older men, increasingly so with increasing age, and that the situation of older women everywhere must be a priority for policy action,

*Aware* that in order to ensure full equality between women and men it is essential to recognize the differential impact of ageing on women and men and to integrate a gender perspective into all policies, programmes and legislation,

*Aware also* that women constitute the majority of older populations in all regions of the world and represent an important human resource whose contribution to society has not been fully recognized,

*Recognizing* the increasing role of older women in taking the responsibility of providing care and assistance to those infected and affected by the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) in various regions of the world, particularly in developing countries,

*Affirming* the dual challenges of ageing and disability, and affirming also that older persons have specific health needs and that, owing to the increase in life expectancy and the growing number of older women, their health concerns require particular attention and further research,

*Aware* that few statistics are available on the situation of older women, and recognizing the importance of data, including data disaggregated by age and sex, as an essential element of planning and policy evaluations,

*Recognizing* that women of all ages, in particular older women, continue to suffer from discrimination

and lack of opportunities, including educational opportunities,

*Emphasizing* that Governments bear the primary responsibility for creating an enabling environment for the economic and social development of their citizens, and noting with appreciation the valuable contributions of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in calling attention to the specific needs of older women,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, held at Madrid from 8 to 12 April 2002, and the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing, and calls for efforts to implement the global action plan aimed at meeting the challenges of the world's ageing population, in particular with regard to older women;

2. *Stresses* the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective, while continuing to take into account the needs of older women, in policy and planning processes at all levels;

3. *Also stresses* the need to eliminate discrimination on the basis of gender and age and ensure equal rights and their full enjoyment for women of all ages;

4. *Urges* Governments and regional and international organizations, including the United Nations system in cooperation with civil society, including non-governmental organizations, where appropriate, to promote programmes for healthy active ageing that stress the independence, equality, participation and security of older women and to undertake gender-specific research and programmes to address their needs;

5. *Emphasizes* the need for Governments and regional and international organizations, including the United Nations system and the international financial institutions, to develop and improve the collection, analysis and dissemination of data disaggregated by age and sex;

6. *Welcomes* the adoption in April 2002 by the Valencia Forum of research and academic professionals of the Research Agenda on Ageing for the Twenty-First Century, to support the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;

7. *Urges* Governments to take measures to enable all older women to be actively engaged in all aspects of life by assuming a variety of roles in communities, public life and decision-making, and to develop and implement policies and programmes in cooperation with civil society, including non-governmental organizations, where appropriate, to ensure that older women can achieve their full enjoyment of human rights and quality of life, with a view to contributing to the realization of a society for all ages;

8. *Calls upon* Governments and the United Nations system to ensure that the needs, perspectives and experiences of older women are reflected in all development policies and programmes;

9. *Invites* Governments, the United Nations system and international organizations to consider, in their development planning, the increasing responsibilities of older women in providing care and assistance for those affected by HIV/AIDS;

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

### *Women and health*

In a March resolution [E/2002/7 (res. 46/2)], the Commission on the Status of Women, emphasizing that gender equality and the empowerment of women were fundamental elements in reducing women's and girls' vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, asked the Secretary-General to take into account a gender perspective in his reports on the disease.

### *Women and poverty*

One of the thematic issues for the 2002 session of the Commission on the Status of Women was eradicating poverty, including through the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle in a globalizing world. On 6 March, the Commission held a panel discussion and dialogue on the theme. On 15 March, the Commission adopted draft agreed conclusions on the thematic issue, which it recommended to the Economic and Social Council for adoption. The Council endorsed the agreed conclusions in **resolution 2002/5** (see p. 1159).

### *Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women*

**Inter-Agency Network.** The United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, formerly the Inter-Agency Meeting on Women and Gender Equality, at its first session (New York, 26 February–1 March) [IANWGE/2002/11], reviewed the work carried out by task forces established on gender mainstreaming in programme budget processes throughout the UN system; tools and indicators of UN entities for gender-impact analysis, monitoring and evaluation over the next five years; gender mainstreaming in the common country assessment and United Nations Development Assistance Framework process (see p. 855); gender and financing for development; women, peace and security; the future work of WomenWatch, an Internet portal to UN gender resources; and gender and information and communications technologies. The Network adopted recommendations arising from its 28 February workshop on training and capacity-building for gender mainstreaming.

**Commission on the Status of Women.** A January report of the Secretary-General [E/CN.6/2002/2] to the Commission on the Status of Women on follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action [YUN 1995, p. 1170] and the outcome of the General Assembly's twenty-third (2000) special session [YUN 2000, p. 1082], submitted in response to Assembly resolution 55/71 [ibid., p. 1107] and Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/41

[YUN 2001, p. 1073], summarized progress made in mainstreaming gender perspectives within the UN system. The report gave an overview of UN system gender policies and strategies, summarized relevant programmes and operational activities, and outlined measures taken to strengthen institutional activities. It noted that the Council's agreed conclusions 1997/2 on gender mainstreaming [YUN 1997, p. 1186] continued to serve as an intergovernmental mandate for gender mainstreaming and guide the work of UN system entities. They also facilitated the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the work of the Council's functional commissions and of other intergovernmental bodies. The Secretary-General welcomed the Council's decision to establish a regular sub-item on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all UN system policies and programmes, in accordance with Council resolution 2001/41.

On 15 March [E/2002/27 (res. 46/3)], the Commission took note of the recommendations in the Secretary-General's report.

**Economic and Social Council.** In a May report to the Economic and Social Council [E/2002/66] on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General focused on progress made in mainstreaming a gender perspective by the Council in 2001, and by the Commission on the Status of Women and other functional commissions of the Council. Also reviewed was the work of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (see above). The report was also intended to facilitate the Council's first-time consideration of the new sub-item 7 (*e*)—mainstreaming a gender perspective into all UN system policies and programmes—introduced in accordance with Council resolution 2001/41.

By **decision 2002/289** of 25 July, the Council took note of the Secretary-General's report.

#### **ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION**

On 24 July [meeting 37], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2002/23** [draft: E/2002/L.14] without vote [agenda item 7 (*e*)].

#### **Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system**

##### *The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* its resolution 2001/41 of 26 July 2001, in which it decided to include in its agenda a sub-item entitled "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system" in order to, inter alia, monitor and evaluate achievements made and obstacles encountered by the United Nations system, and to consider further measures to strengthen

the implementation and monitoring of gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system,

*Also recalling* its agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, and its subsequent decision to devote a coordination segment before 2005 to a review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of those agreed conclusions,

*Affirming* that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for promoting gender equality,

*Reaffirming* that gender mainstreaming constitutes a critical strategy in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

*Underlining* the catalytic role played by the Commission on the Status of Women in promoting gender mainstreaming,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to, and progress in the implementation of, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, especially concerning the measures taken by the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies to mainstream a gender perspective into their work;

2. *Calls upon* Member States and all other actors of the United Nations system to continue to mainstream a gender perspective into all activities at all levels;

3. *Decides* to intensify its efforts to ensure that gender mainstreaming is an integral part of all activities in its work and that of its subsidiary bodies, and therefore to give appropriate attention to gender perspectives and the particular obstacles that women face in all its segments and agenda items, both during discussions and in the drafting of outcomes;

4. *Expresses its appreciation* to its subsidiary bodies for the progress made in giving attention to situations that are specific to women and to the mainstreaming of gender perspectives into their work, for example by:

(a) Identifying gender equality as an essential element for the realization of social, people-centred and sustainable development, and approaching gender as an issue that cuts across all areas of policy rather than only addressing women as a social group to be targeted;

(b) Stressing the need to include women in planning, decision-making and implementation processes at all levels;

(c) Emphasizing the link between human rights and gender equality by using specific agenda items to focus attention on gender equality issues and ensuring the general consideration of gender perspectives throughout their respective agendas;

(d) Recognizing that men and women are often affected differently by political, economic, social and environmental factors, and the consequent need to develop gender-sensitive policies that address the different experiences of men and women in response;

(e) Continuing to use and call for data disaggregated on the basis of sex and using indicators that provide separate analysis by sex;

5. *Calls upon* its subsidiary bodies to intensify their efforts to mainstream gender perspectives in their work;

6. *Also calls upon* its subsidiary bodies to continue their efforts to address gender perspectives in relation

to the thematic issues of their multi-year programmes of work or in relation to annual themes;

7. *Calls upon* the bureaux of its subsidiary bodies to consider how best to facilitate specific gender discussions in their work;

8. *Encourages* its subsidiary bodies to increase their collaboration with the Commission on the Status of Women, and encourages the Commission to continue its efforts to highlight gender perspectives in the work of the Council and its other subsidiary bodies;

9. *Invites* its Bureau to consider, during meetings with the bureaux of its subsidiary bodies, progress made and obstacles encountered in gender mainstreaming, and encourages the President of the Council to consider, during meetings with the Chairpersons of its subsidiary bodies, enhanced coordination in the area of gender mainstreaming across the Council and its subsidiary bodies;

10. *Encourages* the collection, provision and use by the United Nations system and its subsidiary bodies of data disaggregated by sex and other gender-specific information, as one of the means by which obstacles to the integration of a gender perspective can be monitored and addressed;

11. *Encourages* the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Secretariat to expand their efforts to raise awareness across the United Nations system of gender issues;

12. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, especially its efforts to ensure that gender perspectives are addressed systematically by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, and in that regard encourages the Board in its efforts to mainstream gender perspectives throughout the United Nations system;

13. *Also notes with appreciation* the work of the regional commissions to promote gender mainstreaming and improve the situation of women by, inter alia, convening meetings of experts, issuing publications, developing indicators and deriving programmes specifically focused on women's issues, and encourages the regional commissions to intensify those efforts;

14. *Underlines* the importance of reports to inter-governmental bodies presenting issues and approaches in a gender-sensitive manner so as to give concrete and practical recommendations and serve as an analytical basis for those bodies to undertake gender-responsive policy formulation, in accordance with its agreed conclusions 1997/2;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to it at its substantive session of 2003 a report on the follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, including progress in the area of gender mainstreaming.

(See also p. 747.)

#### Status of women in the United Nations

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 56/127 [YUN 2001, p. 1344], the Secretary-General, in a February report [E/CN.6/2002/7], presented

information on the representation of women in the UN Secretariat and information on progress achieved in implementing gender equality goals in the staffing of UN system organizations (see p. 1410). On 25 March, the Commission on the Status of Women took note of the report [E/2002/27 (dec. 46/103)].

Also in response to Assembly resolution 56/127, the Secretary-General submitted an October report on the status of women in the UN system [A/57/447] (see p. 1410).

In **resolution 57/180** of 18 December, the Assembly urged the Secretary-General to redouble his efforts to realize significant progress towards the goal of 50/50 gender distribution in all categories of posts within the UN system (see p. 1411).

#### *Women and the environment*

The Commission on the Status of Women considered, as one of its thematic issues, environmental management and mitigation of natural disasters: a gender perspective. On 6 March, the Commission held a panel discussion and dialogue on the theme. On 15 March, it adopted draft agreed conclusions on the thematic issue, which it recommended to the Economic and Social Council for adoption. The Council endorsed the agreed conclusions in **resolution 2002/5** (see p. 1159).

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## UN machinery

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### **Convention on the elimination of discrimination against women**

As at 31 December 2002, 170 States were parties to the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 34/180 [YUN 1979, p. 895]. During the year, Bahrain and Solomon Islands acceded to the Convention. At year's end, 37 States parties had also accepted the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention in respect of the meeting time of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which was adopted by the States parties in 1995 [YUN 1995, p. 1178]. The amendment would enter into force when accepted by a two-thirds majority of States parties.

The Optional Protocol to the Convention, adopted by the Assembly in resolution 54/4 [YUN 1999, p. 1100], which entered into force in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 1123], had 49 States parties by year's end.

The Secretary-General submitted his annual report to the Assembly on the status of the Convention as at 31 August [A/57/406 & Corr.1].

**Meeting of States parties.** The twelfth meeting of States parties to the Convention (New York, 29 August) [CEDAW/SP/2002/4] elected 12 CEDAW members to replace those members whose terms were to expire on 31 December 2002. The newly elected members would serve from 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2006. The meeting had before it a July document containing any reservations, declarations, objections and notifications of withdrawal of reservations relating to the Convention [CEDAW/SP/2002/2].

### **CEDAW**

In 2002, the 23-member Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, established in 1982 [YUN 1982, p. 1149] to monitor compliance with the 1979 Convention, held two regular sessions and an exceptional session, all in New York [A/57/38].

At its twenty-sixth session (14 January–1 February), CEDAW reviewed the initial or periodic reports of Estonia, Fiji, Iceland, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay on measures they had taken to implement the Convention. CEDAW considered a Secretariat report on ways and means of expediting its work [CEDAW/C/2002/1/4], and a note by the Secretary-General on the reports of specialized agencies [CEDAW/C/2002/1/3] and the reports of specialized agencies on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activity [CEDAW/C/2002/1/3/Add.1-4]. By four decisions, CEDAW adopted a statement of solidarity with Afghan women [A/57/38 (dec. 26/D)]; a statement on gender and sustainable development [dec. 26/II], to be forwarded to the preparatory committee for the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (see p. 821); a statement on ending discrimination against older women through the 1979 Convention [dec. 26/III], to be forwarded to the preparatory committee for the World Assembly on Ageing (see p. 1193); and, subject to the availability of resources, decided to nominate one member to participate in the General Assembly's special session on children [dec. 26/IV] (see p. 1168). In other action, the Committee adopted a draft model communication form to be submitted by, or on behalf of, an individual or a group of individuals who claimed to be victims of violations of the rights protected by the Convention.

The Working Group on the Optional Protocol met from 4 to 8 February to consider its working methods and cooperation between the UN Division for the Advancement of Women and the Of-

office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) with respect to communications.

At its twenty-seventh session (3-21 June), CEDAW reviewed the initial or periodic reports of Belgium, Denmark, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Suriname, Tunisia, Ukraine and Zambia. It also considered a Secretariat report on ways and means of improving its work [CEDAW/C/2002/II/4]; and specialized agencies' reports on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities, transmitted by the Secretary-General [CEDAW/C/2002/II/3 & Add.1-4]. By two decisions, CEDAW adopted revised guidelines for States parties' reports [A/57/38 (dec. 27/1)]; and decided to convene a meeting with States not party to the Convention during its twenty-eighth (2003) session [dec. 27/II].

CEDAW participated in the first inter-committee meeting of the human rights treaty bodies on methods of work relating to the State reporting process (Geneva, 26-28 June) (see p. 623).

Pursuant to Assembly resolution 56/229 [YUN 2001, p. 1075], CEDAW held an exceptional session (5-23 August) to consider States parties' reports in order to reduce the backlog. It reviewed the periodic reports of Argentina, Armenia, Barbados, the Czech Republic, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Mexico, Peru, Uganda and Yemen. CEDAW considered a note by the Secretary-General on the reports of specialized agencies [CEDAW/C/2002/EXC/3] and the reports of specialized agencies on implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities [CEDAW/C/2002/EXC/3/Add.1, 3 & 4].

In other action, the Committee held a seminar on its working methods (Lund, Sweden, 22-24 April).

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 77], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/57/549], adopted **resolution 57/178** without vote [agenda item 102].

#### Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 56/229 of 24 December 2001 and its previous resolutions on the elimination of discrimination against women,

*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* the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993, in which the Conference reaffirmed that the human rights of women and the girl child were an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights,

*Acknowledging* the need for a comprehensive and integrated approach to the promotion and protection of the human rights of women, which includes the integration of the human rights of women into the mainstream of United Nations activities system-wide,

*Reaffirming* the commitments made in the political declaration and the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", in particular paragraphs 68 (c) and (d) concerning the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto,

*Recalling* that, in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, heads of State and Government resolved to implement the Convention,

*Recognizing* that the equal enjoyment by women of all human rights will promote the realization of the rights of the child, bearing in mind the special needs of girls, and acknowledging the mutual reinforcement of the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto,

*Welcoming* the progress made in the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, but expressing concern about the remaining challenges,

*Welcoming also* the growing number of States parties to the Convention, which now stands at one hundred and seventy,

*Welcoming further* the entry into force on 22 December 2000 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

*Bearing in mind* the recommendation of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women that national reports should contain information on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, in accordance with paragraph 323 of the Platform,

*Having considered* the report of the Committee on its twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh sessions,

*Expressing concern* at the great number of reports that are overdue and that continue to be overdue, in particular initial reports, which constitutes an obstacle to the full implementation of the Convention,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

2. *Expresses disappointment* that universal ratification of the Convention was not achieved by 2000, and urges all States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of full compliance by States parties with their obligations under the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto;

4. *Welcomes* the rapidly growing number of States parties to the Optional Protocol, which now stands at forty-nine, and urges other States parties to the Con-

vention to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol;

5. *Also welcomes* the holding and successful outcome of the first informal meeting of States parties, held in New York on 17 June 2002;

6. *Further welcomes* the fact that the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women has adopted the rules governing its work under the Optional Protocol as part of its revised rules of procedure;

7. *Notes* that some States parties have modified their reservations, expresses satisfaction that some reservations have been withdrawn, and urges States parties to limit the extent of any reservations that they lodge to the Convention, to formulate any such reservations as precisely and as narrowly as possible, to ensure that no reservations are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention, to review their reservations regularly with a view to withdrawing them and to withdraw reservations that are contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention;

8. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Committee of revised reporting guidelines, in particular on the length of reports of States parties and the streamlining of their structure and content;

9. *Recalls* the great number of overdue reports, in particular initial reports, and urges States parties to the Convention to make every possible effort to submit their reports on the implementation of the Convention in a timely manner in accordance with article 18 thereof;

10. *Encourages* the Secretariat to extend further technical assistance to States parties, upon their request, in the preparation of reports, in particular initial reports, and invites Governments to contribute to these efforts;

11. *Invites* States parties to make use of the technical assistance provided by the Secretariat to facilitate the preparation of reports, in particular initial reports;

12. *Expresses its satisfaction* that the Committee has addressed successfully the large number of reports that awaited consideration by the Committee during the extraordinary session held from 5 to 23 August 2002;

13. *Commends* the Committee on its contributions to the effective implementation of the Convention;

14. *Strongly urges* States parties to the Convention to take appropriate measures so that acceptance of the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention by a two-thirds majority of States parties can be reached as soon as possible so that the amendment may enter into force;

15. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts made by the Committee to improve the efficiency of its working methods and for the holding, in Lund, Sweden, from 22 to 24 April 2002, of the seminar on the working methods of the Committee, and encourages the Committee to continue its efforts in this regard;

16. *Also expresses its appreciation* for the participation of the Committee in the first inter-committee meeting of the human rights treaty bodies on methods of work relating to the State reporting process, held in Geneva from 26 to 28 June 2002;

17. *Encourages* the Committee, within its mandate, to continue to contribute to the efforts to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the treaty bodies;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/4 of 6 October 1999, to provide the resources, including staff and facilities, necessary for the effective functioning of the Committee within its full mandate, taking into account in particular the entry into force of the Optional Protocol;

19. *Urges* Governments, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to disseminate the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto;

20. *Encourages* all relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their mandates, as well as Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and, in particular, women's organizations, as appropriate, to continue to assist States parties, upon their request, in implementing the Convention, and in this regard encourages States parties to pay attention to the concluding comments as well as the general recommendations of the Committee;

21. *Encourages* all relevant entities of the United Nations system to continue to build women's knowledge and understanding of and capacity to utilize human rights instruments, in particular the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto;

22. *Welcomes* the submission by the specialized agencies, at the invitation of the Committee, of reports on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities and the contribution of non-governmental organizations to the work of the Committee, and encourages the specialized agencies to continue to submit reports;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session a report on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the implementation of the present resolution.

### Commission on the Status of Women

The Commission on the Status of Women, at its forty-sixth session (New York, 4-15 and 25 March) [E/2002/27], recommended three draft resolutions to the Economic and Social Council for adoption on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (see p. 453); the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan (see p. 1149); and its agreed conclusions on thematic issues (eradicating poverty; and environmental management and mitigation of natural disasters) (see p. 1159). The Commission also adopted and brought to the Council's attention resolutions on the release of women and children taken hostage in armed conflicts (see p. 1144); women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS (see p. 1154); and mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the UN system (see p. 1154). Three draft decisions for adoption by the Council related to the election of the Commission's Bureau (see p. 1163), the communications procedure (see p. 1163) and the Commission's report on its forty-sixth session and the provisional

agenda for the forty-seventh (2003) session (see below). The Commission further adopted three decisions, by which it introduced, starting in 2003, the option of high-level round tables during its sessions, and authorized the Bureau to decide, after consultation with all interested States through the regional groups, on the number, timing and theme of the round tables [dec. 46/101]; made recommendations to Governments regarding communications on the status of women [dec. 46/102] (see p. 1163); and took note of the documents before it [dec. 46/103], among them, reports of the Secretary-General on thematic issues before the Commission [E/CN.6/2002/9] and on the joint work plan of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Division for the Advancement of Women and OHCHR for 2002 [E/CN.4/2002/82-E/CN.6/2002/6] (see p. 747).

By **decision 2002/236** of 24 July, the Economic and Social Council took note of the Commission's report on its forty-sixth session and approved the provisional agenda for its forty-seventh (2003) session.

#### ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 24 July [meeting 37], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women [E/2002/27], adopted **resolution 2002/5** without vote [agenda item 14 (a)].

#### Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on thematic issues

##### *The Economic and Social Council*

Endorses the following agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women with respect to the thematic issues addressed by the Commission at its forty-sixth session:

#### A. Agreed conclusions on eradicating poverty, including through the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle, in a globalizing world

1. The Commission on the Status of Women recalls and reiterates the strategic objectives and actions of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome document adopted at the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", which emphasized the multidimensional nature of poverty and identified gender equality and the empowerment of women as critical factors in the eradication of poverty. It also recalls the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the development goals contained therein, as well as the resolve to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate development that is truly sustainable.

2. The Commission recognizes that, while it is the primary responsibility of States to attain economic and social development and to achieve the development and poverty eradication goals as set out in the United

Nations Millennium Declaration, the international community should support the efforts of the developing countries to eradicate poverty and ensure basic social protection and to promote an enabling international environment.

3. While globalization has brought greater economic opportunities and autonomy to some women, many others, owing to the deepening inequalities among and within countries, have been marginalized and deprived of the benefits of this process. Globalization should be fully inclusive and equitable. To that end, there is a strong need for policies and measures at the national and international levels, formulated and implemented with the full and effective participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to help them to respond effectively to those challenges and opportunities. Further efforts at the national and international levels should be made to eliminate the obstacles facing the integration of developing countries in the global economy.

4. The empowerment of women is the process by which women take control over their lives, acquiring the ability to make strategic choices. Empowerment is an important strategy to eradicate poverty. Special attention must be given to the situation of women and children, who often bear the greatest burden of extreme poverty.

5. The Commission urges Governments and, as appropriate, the relevant funds and programmes, organizations and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the international financial institutions, civil society, including the private sector and non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders to take the following actions to accelerate implementation of these strategic objectives to address the needs of all women:

(a) Ensure that all actions to achieve the poverty eradication goals established in the United Nations Millennium Declaration include the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle;

(b) Ensure that, in order to eradicate poverty and promote gender equality and democracy and strengthen the rule of law, both women and men are involved in decision-making, political agenda-setting and allocation of resources;

(c) Ensure that women and men have equal access to full and effective participation in all processes and that a gender perspective is mainstreamed in development, trade and financial institutions;

(d) Create an enabling environment and design and implement policies that promote and protect the enjoyment of all human rights—civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights, including the right to development—and fundamental freedoms, as part of the efforts to achieve gender equality, development and peace;

(e) Evaluate the relationship between the empowerment of women and poverty eradication in different stages of women's life cycle and analyse the intersection of gender and other factors, reflect the implications for policies and programmes and compile and widely disseminate good practices and lessons learned;

(f) Strengthen efforts to mainstream gender perspectives and the empowerment of women through the whole policy process, from the identification to the for-

mulation, implementation, evaluation and follow-up of macroeconomic policies, as well as economic and social policy formulation and implementation and poverty eradication policies, programmes, development frameworks and strategies;

(g) Establish or improve gender-specific analysis of poverty and strengthen institutional capacities at all levels, including relevant national machineries, in order to undertake gender analysis in poverty eradication initiatives by, inter alia, the allocation of sufficient resources;

(h) Improve the collection, compilation and dissemination of timely, reliable, comparable data disaggregated by sex and age and further develop quantitative and qualitative indicators, including social indicators, by national and international statistical organizations so as to increase capacity to measure, assess and analyse poverty among women and men, including at the household level, and make progress in the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle;

(i) Encourage the inclusion of data on women's equal access to land and other property in United Nations reports;

(j) Identify and take all appropriate measures to address obstacles to the empowerment of women and to their full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms throughout the life cycle with a view to eradicating poverty;

(k) Take the strongest measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls;

(l) Incorporate a gender perspective into the design, development, adoption and execution of all budgetary processes, as well as economic and financial policies, in a transparent manner so as to ensure, where appropriate, that national budget policies and priorities as well as resource allocations support the eradication of poverty, the empowerment of women and the achievement of gender equality goals, and ensure full participation by women in all such processes;

(m) Review and reform, where appropriate, fiscal policies, particularly taxation policies, to ensure equality between women and men in this regard;

(n) Strengthen the provision of and ensure access to adequate, affordable and accessible public and social services to meet the needs of all women, in particular women living in poverty;

(o) Design, implement and promote family-friendly policies and services, including affordable, accessible and quality care services for children and other dependants, parental and other leave schemes and campaigns to sensitize public opinion and other relevant actors on equal sharing of employment and family responsibilities between women and men;

(p) Improve and develop physical and mental health programmes and services, including preventive health care, for women, particularly women living in poverty;

(q) Strengthen policies and programmes at the national level to provide equal access to health-care services for all women and girls, particularly for those living in poverty;

(r) Create and ensure equal access to all types of permanent and sustainable social protection/social security systems at all stages throughout women's life

cycle, taking into account the specific needs of all women living in poverty;

(s) Ensure full and equal access at all levels to formal and non-formal education and training for women and girls, including pregnant adolescents and adolescent mothers, as key to their empowerment by, inter alia, the reallocation of resources, as necessary;

(t) Take urgent and effective measures in accordance with international law with a view to alleviating the negative impact of economic sanctions on women and children;

(u) Enhance market access for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in particular for those sectors that provide greater employment opportunities for women, and expand access for women entrepreneurs to trade opportunities;

(v) Undertake socio-economic policies that promote sustainable development and support and ensure poverty eradication programmes, especially for women, by, inter alia, providing skills training, equal access to and control over resources, finance, credit, including microcredit, information and technology and equal access to markets to benefit women of all ages, in particular those living in poverty and marginalized women, including rural women, indigenous women and female-headed households;

(w) Take measures to develop and implement gender-sensitive programmes aimed at stimulating women's entrepreneurship and private initiative and assist women-owned business in participating in and benefiting from, inter alia, international trade, technological innovation and investment;

(x) Develop strategies to increase employment of women and to ensure that women, including women living in poverty, are protected by law against discriminatory terms and conditions of employment and any form of exploitation, that they benefit fully from job creation through a balanced representation of women and men in all sectors and occupations and that women receive equal pay for equal work or work of equal value to diminish differentials in incomes between women and men;

(y) Facilitate the transfer to developing countries and countries with economies in transition of appropriate technology, particularly new and modern technology, and encourage efforts by the international community to eliminate restrictions on such transfers as an effective means of complementing national efforts for further acceleration in achieving the goals of gender equality, development and peace;

(z) Promote and facilitate the equal access of women and girls, including those living in rural areas, to information and communication technologies, including newly developed technologies, and promote women's and girls' access to education and training in their use, as well as to investment in and use of these technologies for, inter alia, networking, advocacy, exchange of information, business, education, media consultation and e-commerce initiatives;

(aa) Ensure that national legislative and administrative reform processes, including those linked to land reform, decentralization and reorientation of the economy, promote the rights of women, particularly those of rural women and women living in poverty, and take measures to promote and implement those rights through women's equal access to and control

over economic resources, including land, property rights, the right to inheritance, credit and traditional saving schemes, such as women's banks and cooperatives;

(bb) Ensure that clean water is available and accessible to all, particularly to women living in poverty;

(cc) Provide additional international financing and assistance to developing countries in support of their efforts to empower women and eradicate poverty and mainstream gender perspectives in the official development assistance process, including specific provisions for meeting the needs of women living in poverty in areas such as education, training, employment and health, as well as in social and economic policies, including macroeconomic policies, with a view to achieving sustainable development, and urge developed countries that have not done so to make concrete efforts towards the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product as official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product of developed countries to least developed countries, as reconfirmed at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, and encourage developing countries to build on progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help to achieve development goals and targets;

(dd) Promote, in the spirit of solidarity, international cooperation, including through voluntary contributions, in order to undertake actions in the field of poverty eradication, particularly among women and girls;

(ee) Ensure that women, especially poor women in developing countries, benefit from the pursuit of effective, equitable, development-oriented and durable solutions to the external debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries, including the option of official development assistance debt cancellation, and call for continued international cooperation;

(ff) Forge constructive partnerships among Governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other stakeholders to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women in poverty eradication efforts and to further support and encourage women and men, girls and boys, to form new advocacy networks and alliances.

6. The Commission on the Status of Women welcomes the convening of the International Conference on Financing for Development, and underlines the importance of its objectives in relation to gender equality, the empowerment of women and poverty eradication.

7. The Commission also welcomes the convening of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, stresses the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective into the preparations, work and outcome of the Assembly, including the Political Declaration and Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, and welcomes the involvement of all women in the work of the Assembly and the inclusion of women in delegations to the Assembly. Recognition should be given to the contribution of older women and special attention paid to their empowerment and well-being.

8. The Commission further welcomes the convening of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, stresses the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective and of the involvement of women in the

preparations, work and outcome of the World Summit, and encourages the inclusion of women in delegations to the Summit.

#### **B. Agreed conclusions on environmental management and the mitigation of natural disasters**

1. The Commission on the Status of Women recalls that, in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, it was recognized that environmental degradation and disasters affect all human lives and often have a more direct impact on women and that it was recommended that the role of women and the environment be further investigated. The twenty-third special session of the General Assembly identified natural disasters as a current challenge affecting the full implementation of the Platform for Action and emphasized the need to incorporate a gender perspective in the development and implementation of disaster prevention, mitigation and recovery strategies. The Commission also recalls the resolve in the United Nations Millennium Declaration to intensify cooperation to reduce the number and effects of natural and man-made disasters, as well as General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991, the annex to which contained the guiding principles of humanitarian assistance.

2. The Commission is deeply convinced that economic development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development, which is the framework for the efforts to achieve a higher quality of life for all people.

3. The Commission reiterates the strategic objectives and actions adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, and in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", held in New York in 2000.

4. The Commission recognizes that women play a vital role in disaster reduction (prevention, mitigation and preparedness), response and recovery and in natural resources management, that disaster situations aggravate vulnerable conditions and that some women face particular vulnerabilities in this context.

5. The Commission also recognizes that women's strengths in dealing with disasters and supporting their families and communities should be built upon following disasters to rebuild and restore their communities and mitigate against future disasters.

6. The Commission further recognizes the need to enhance women's capacities and institutional mechanisms to respond to disasters in order to enhance gender equality and the empowerment of women.

7. The Commission urges Governments and, as appropriate, also urges the relevant funds and programmes, organizations and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the international financial institutions, civil society, including the private sector and non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders to take the following actions to accelerate implementation of these strategic objectives to address the needs of all women:

(a) Pursue gender equality and gender-sensitive environmental management and disaster reduction, response and recovery as an integral part of sustainable development;

(b) Take measures to integrate a gender perspective in the design and implementation of, among other things, environmentally sound and sustainable resource and disaster management mechanisms and establish mechanisms to review such efforts;

(c) Ensure the full participation of women in sustainable development decision-making and disaster reduction management at all levels;

(d) Ensure the full enjoyment by women and girls of all human rights—civil, cultural, economic, political and social, including the right to development—including in disaster reduction, response and recovery; in this context, special attention should be given to the prevention and prosecution of gender-based violence;

(e) Mainstream a gender perspective into ongoing research by, inter alia, the academic sector on the impact of climate change, natural hazards, disasters and related environmental vulnerability, including their root causes, and encourage the application of the results of this research in policies and programmes;

(f) Collect demographic and socio-economic data and information disaggregated by sex and age, develop national gender-sensitive indicators and analyse gender differences with regard to environmental management, disaster occurrence and associated losses and risks and vulnerability reduction;

(g) Develop, review and implement, as appropriate, with the involvement and participation of women's groups, gender-sensitive laws, policies and programmes, including on land-use and urbanization planning, natural resource and environmental management and integrated water resources management, to provide opportunities to prevent and mitigate damage;

(h) Encourage, as appropriate, the development and implementation of national building standards that take into account natural hazards so that women, men and their families are not exposed to high risk from disasters;

(i) Include gender analysis and methods of mapping hazards and vulnerabilities at the design stage of all relevant development programmes and projects in order to improve the effectiveness of disaster risk management, involving women and men equally;

(j) Ensure women's equal access to information and formal and non-formal education on disaster reduction, including through gender-sensitive early warning systems, and empower women to take related action in a timely and appropriate manner;

(k) Promote income-generating activities and employment opportunities, including through the provision of microcredit and other financial instruments, ensure equal access to resources, in particular land and property ownership, including housing, and take measures to empower women as producers and consumers, in order to enhance the capacity of women to respond to disasters;

(l) Design and implement gender-sensitive economic relief and recovery projects and ensure equal economic opportunities for women, including in both the formal and the non-formal sectors, taking into account the loss of land and property, including housing and other productive and personal assets;

(m) Make women full and equal partners in the development of safer communities and in determining national or local priorities for disaster reduction and

incorporate local and indigenous knowledge, skills and capacities into environmental management and disaster reduction;

(n) Support capacity-building at all levels aimed at disaster reduction, based on knowledge about women's and men's needs and opportunities;

(o) Introduce formal and non-formal education and training programmes at all levels, including in the areas of science, technology and economics, with an integrated and gender-sensitive approach to environmentally sound and sustainable resource management and disaster reduction, response and recovery in order to change behaviour and attitudes in rural and urban areas;

(p) Ensure the implementation of their commitments by all Governments made in Agenda 21 and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, including those in the areas of financial and technical assistance and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to the developing countries, and ensure that a gender perspective is mainstreamed into all such assistance and transfers;

(q) Document good practice and lessons learned, particularly from effective community-based strategies for disaster reduction, response and recovery, which actively involve women as well as men, and widely disseminate this information to all stakeholders;

(r) Improve and develop physical and mental health programmes, services and social support networks for women who suffer from the effects of natural disasters, including trauma;

(s) Strengthen the capacities of ministries, emergency authorities, practitioners and communities to apply a gender-sensitive approach to environmental management and disaster reduction and the involvement of women professionals and field workers;

(t) Forge constructive partnerships between Governments, international organizations and civil society, including the private sector and non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders in integrated and gender-sensitive sustainable development initiatives to reduce environmental risks;

(u) Encourage civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to mainstream a gender perspective in the promotion of sustainable development initiatives, including in disaster reduction;

(v) Ensure coordination in the United Nations system, including the full and active participation of funds, programmes and specialized agencies, to mainstream a gender perspective in sustainable development, including environmental management and disaster reduction activities.

8. The Commission on the Status of Women calls for the integration of a gender perspective in the implementation of all policies and treaties related to sustainable development and in the review of the implementation of the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action, scheduled for 2004.

9. The Commission on the Status of Women welcomes the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction efforts to mainstream a gender perspective in the mitigation of disasters.

10. The Commission welcomes also the policy statement of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee for the integration of a gender perspective in humanitarian assistance, of 31 May 1999.

11. The Commission welcomes further the convening of the International Conference on Financing for Development and takes note of the recognition, contained in the Monterrey Consensus, of the particular needs of women and the importance of gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as the recognition of the impact of disasters.

12. The Commission welcomes the convening of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, stresses the importance of gender mainstreaming throughout the process and urges gender balance in the composition of delegations as well as the involvement and full participation of women in the preparations, work and outcome of the World Summit, thus renewing the commitment to gender equality objectives at the international level. The Commission further reiterates that all States and all people shall cooperate in the essential task of eradicating poverty as an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in order to decrease the disparities in standards of living and better meet the needs of the majority of the people of the world.

Also on 24 July, the Council, in order to improve the work of the Commission and to ensure the continuity in the work of its successive Bureaux, decided on a series of measures regarding the terms of office of Commission members and the election of its Chairperson and other Bureau members (**decision 2002/234**).

#### **Communications on the status of women**

**Working Group.** In four closed meetings in March [E/2002/27], the Commission considered the report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women, established in 1993 [YUN 1993, p. 1050] to consider ways of making the communications procedure more transparent and efficient. The Working Group considered six confidential communications received directly by the Division for the Advancement of Women and 17 confidential communications received by OHCHR. No non-confidential communications were received. The Working Group noted grave violations of women's human rights, including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, and discrimination against them; violence against women and girls and their exclusion from full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms; the failure of authorities to take appropriate action regarding human rights violations; detention of foreign domestic workers and their torture, sexual abuse and denial of access to lawyers; and forced labour by women and children in unhealthy and unsafe conditions that resulted in many deaths. It further noted poor conditions of detention and the

forcible repatriation of refugees of a particular ethnic group and their rape by soldiers, and the death of some of those women by suffocation during their journey by cargo train to their countries of origin. The Working Group also noted the ongoing harassment, including acts of violence, intimidation and death threats, of women human rights defenders, journalists and members of the political opposition, by members of the police force, and the intimidation of detainees' lawyers and family members. It identified impunity of perpetrators of violations of the rights of women as a continuing concern.

In a March decision [E/2002/27 (dec. 46/102)], the Commission took note of the Group's report and recommended further public education campaigns and gender-awareness training for specific sectors, especially the police forces, law enforcement, security and military personnel, and other government officials.

**Communications procedure.** The Commission had before it a January report of the Secretary-General, which assessed the implications of the reforms of mechanisms in the human rights area (1503 procedure) for communications concerning the status of women [E/CN.6/2002/12]. The report presented an overview of the Commission's confidential communications procedures and discussed country responses received by the Secretary-General following his request for submissions relevant to his previous report [YUN 2001, p. 1083]. The Secretary-General concluded that there appeared to be two approaches to reforming the communications procedure. Under the first approach, the procedure would remain as it was, with minor modifications, such as strengthening the use of the procedure for policy-making, with the Commission's increased usage of the Working Group's reports as a basis for recommending action by the Economic and Social Council; appointing Group members before the Commission's session so that they could receive the lists of communications in advance and prepare themselves more fully; and discontinuing the sharing of information between OHCHR and the Division for the Advancement of Women. The second approach involved fundamental changes in the procedure. One option would be to transform the procedure into a gender-specific situations mechanism, similar to the 1503 procedure; a second option would be to appoint a special rapporteur to take over the function of the Working Group and a third would be to appoint a thematic special rapporteur to collect information and report on a particular topic.

On 25 March [E/2002/27 (dec. 46/103)], the Commission took note of the Secretary-General's report.

On 24 July (**decision 2002/235**), the Economic and Social Council decided that, starting at its forty-seventh (2003) session, and in order to make the communications procedure more effective and efficient, the Commission should appoint, at each session, Working Group members for the next session, so as to enable the Group to meet and the Secretariat to issue its report three working days before the Commission's adoption of the agenda. It requested the Secretary-General to inform Governments about communications that pertained to them at least 12 weeks before their consideration by the Working Group; to ensure that the Working Group received the lists of communications, including government responses, in advance, for the preparation of its report; and to publicize further the Commission's communications procedure.

### **UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)**

During 2002 [A/58/168], the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) continued to focus on strengthening women's economic security and rights; enhancing women's leadership in governance and peace-building; and promoting women's human rights and eliminating violence against women, including by highlighting the gender dimensions of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. UNIFEM's activities were defined in its 2000-2003 strategy and business plan, endorsed by the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund (UNDP/UNFPA) in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 1127].

Three key results emerged from UNIFEM's programme on women's economic security and rights: a strengthened institutional, legal and regulatory environment for women's equal ownership and access to economic resources; macro-economic frameworks and strengthened country capacity to manage globalization and economic transition from the perspective of poor women; and women's strengthened capacity and rights as entrepreneurs, producers and home-based workers. In advancing women's leadership in governance and peace-building, UNIFEM strengthened gender focus in information collection and exchange to improve prevention and early warning mechanisms; improved protection and assistance for women affected by conflict; made women and gender perspectives central to peace processes; expanded support for enhancing gender equality and women's rights in post-conflict peace-

building; and strengthened gender focus in electoral, constitutional, legislative and judicial processes. UNIFEM programmes to promote women's human rights and eliminate violence against them made progress towards an expanded capacity to eliminate violence against women and girls by investing in prevention, protection and advocacy strategies; increased effectiveness at the country level in the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; and better understanding of the gender and human rights dimensions of HIV/AIDS.

UNIFEM initiatives to enhance the capacity of the UN system to support the empowerment of women and gender mainstreaming in policies and programmes resulted in increased and more focused support to the implementation of the UN reform agenda; new agreements and deepening collaboration to strengthen gender equality with UN agencies, funds and programmes; and stronger linkages between UNIFEM's operational activities and intergovernmental processes. Strengthening the Fund's effectiveness by incorporating the principles of a learning organization and building strategic partnerships improved communication strategies to raise awareness of the "how-to" of achieving women's rights and gender equality; strengthened strategic partnerships that underpinned the transmission of knowledge to widening constituencies; and strengthened capacity and systems to support innovation and learning.

UNIFEM's core resources remained at about \$20 million in 2002. Total contributions rose to \$34.6 million in 2002, an increase of \$6.7 million over 2001. Contributions from bilateral donors accounted for approximately 88 per cent of its resource base, down from 92 per cent in 2001. In addition, contributions from its top three donors—the United Kingdom, Italy and the Netherlands—increased between 2000 and 2002, owing in part to commitments to support its work in Afghanistan. Partnerships with UN agencies, especially the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, UNDP and UNFPA, and with foundations and socially responsible private sector companies, also contributed to an increase in 2002 resources.

In an August report [DP/2002/30] to the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board, UNIFEM's Executive Director provided a mid-term review of the 2000-2003 strategy and business plan implementation, which focused on trends and challenges and major results achieved during the 2000-2002 biennium.

The UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board, on 27 September [E/2002/35 (dec. 2002/20)], noted UNIFEM's

achievement in implementing its 2000-2003 strategy and business plan, and called on it and all relevant UN system entities to collaborate towards gender mainstreaming throughout the United Nations. It encouraged UNIFEM to work closely with the United Nations Development Group and UNDP to ensure that the gender dimensions of all the international development goals were recognized and incorporated into the operational activities of the UN system, and to enhance further coordination with programme countries. The Executive Board encouraged UNDP and UNIFEM to strengthen their relationship in supporting the resident coordinator system.

In a February note [E/CN.4/2002/136-E/CN.6/2002/8], the Secretary-General transmitted to the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women UNIFEM's report on the 2001 activities of its Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 50/166 [YUN 1995, p. 1188]. On 25 March [E/2002/27 (dec. 46/103)], the Commission on women took note of UNIFEM's report. A later report of UNIFEM [E/CN.6/2003/11-E/CN.4/2003/121] stated that the Fund approved over \$1 million in grants for 18 new projects in 2002 to address diverse forms of violence against women, including rape, the issue of survivors living with HIV/AIDS, domestic violence and trafficking in women and children. Since its establishment in 1996, the Trust Fund had awarded \$7.8 million in grants to 147 projects in 73 countries.

In July [A/57/125], the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly a report on UNIFEM's 2001 activities [YUN 2001, p. 1085]. The Assembly, by **decision 57/549** of 20 December, noted the report.

### **International Research and Training Institute (INSTRAW)**

A June report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) [E/2002/70] stated that the Board's twenty-second (2002) session was postponed, pending the recommendations of the Working Group on the Future Operation of INSTRAW (see p. 1166). Annexed to the report was a brief on INSTRAW developments during 2001 and the current financial status of the Institute, prepared by INSTRAW and sent electronically to Board members to inform the Board and seek its views and guidance. The Board approved the 2002 work programme and estimated budgetary requirements; took note of INSTRAW's developments and

current status during 2001; expressed appreciation for the General Assembly's establishment of the Working Group; welcomed the information on activities and developments, and Member States' support in providing resources to the Institute; and noted the appointment of an interim Manager/Director to oversee the Institute's work. The Board also expressed the hope that the Working Group would propose viable measures to address the Institute's current difficulties, and that the implementation of such measures would be carried out with due consideration to INSTRAW's achievements, the potential benefits of its Gender Awareness Information and Networking System (GAINS) and the well-being of its staff. The Board requested the Secretary-General to keep it informed.

On 25 July, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Board of Trustees (**decision 2002/289**).

**OIOS report.** In response to General Assembly resolutions 48/218 B [YUN 1994, p. 1362] and 54/244 [YUN 1999, p. 1274], the Secretary-General transmitted an April report of the UN Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on its audit of INSTRAW covering the period from July 1998 to August 2001 [A/56/907]. OIOS recommended that the Secretary-General detail the role and responsibilities of his Special Representative for INSTRAW with a clearly defined delegation of authority and instruct him to propose to the Working Group the option of closing INSTRAW. However, if the Working Group should decide not to consider that option, OIOS recommended that the Secretary-General instruct his Special Representative to propose that: the Group examine the feasibility of INSTRAW's continuation as an autonomous body within the framework of the United Nations and the strategy for achieving effective autonomy for INSTRAW through the appropriate delegation of authority; the Group consider improvements to the Board of Trustees, such as reconstituting it to include donor representatives or replacing it by a consultative committee; and the Assembly consider continuing the temporary funding of INSTRAW's core operations from the UN regular budget until the Group completed its assessment and finalized recommendations on the Institute's sustainability. Recommendations to INSTRAW's interim Director were to evaluate GAINS and refocus the project before further implementation, and draw lessons learned from the GAINS project on men's role as partners in ending violence towards women and apply them to future, more cost-effective projects. OIOS recommended measures to the interim Director regarding increasing donor funding and the hiring of consultants. The

Secretary-General concurred with the OIOS recommendations.

**Note by Secretary-General.** In response to General Assembly resolution 56/125 [YUN 2001, p. 1089] and Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/40 [ibid., p. 1087], the Secretary-General submitted a July note on the implementation of INSTRAW's work programme [A/57/129-E/2002/77], including managerial and financial matters, and on the current status of the Working Group on the Future Operation of INSTRAW.

The Secretary-General stated that the Institute continued to implement phases III and IV of its GAINS project and the GAINS web site was almost completed. The Institute completed the project on men's roles in ending gender-based violence and initiated a research project on gender and information and communication technologies; two projects, on gender dimensions of environment and sustainable development and on men's roles in reproductive health care, were in the pipeline for the third and fourth quarters of 2002. On 24 June, the Secretary-General appointed an interim Manager/Director. As to the formation of the Working Group, which would be composed of two governmental representatives from each of the five UN regional groups and one representative of the host country (Dominican Republic), three regional groups were fully represented, while the two other regional groups had designated only one representative and the host country had designated its representative. The Secretary-General reported that INSTRAW's financial situation continued to deteriorate. Major donors had decreased their contributions pending the outcome of the Working Group, and fund-raising efforts of the Secretariat and the Institute did not produce the desired effect of reversing the negative trend in voluntary contributions. The Institute increasingly relied on the UN regular budget subventions to finance its core activities.

In the light of INSTRAW's difficulties, the Secretary-General stated that the Council might wish to discuss INSTRAW's critical situation and recommend actions to expedite the Working Group's formation and facilitate its decisions.

The Economic and Social Council by **decision 2002/289** of 25 July and the General Assembly by **decision 57/529** of 18 December took note of the Secretary-General's note on INSTRAW.

**Working Group report.** The Working Group on the Future Operation of INSTRAW, established by General Assembly resolution 56/125 [YUN 2001, p. 1089], held eight meetings between 22 July and 12 August [A/57/330]. Following consideration of all the options regarding INSTRAW's future, the Working Group dismissed the closure of

INSTRAW and the continuation of the status quo. A merger with UNIFEM or with the United Nations University (UNU) was not desirable. The Group recommended a merger/linkage with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), under the direct authority of the Under-Secretary-General. To accomplish the linkage between INSTRAW and DESA, the Group recommended that the Economic and Social Council amend INSTRAW's statute to abolish its autonomy and its Board of Trustees, and allocate the funding of its core activities from within the UN regular budget at a cost of \$500,000 annually, which would make it comparable to that of other UN research institutes. It also recommended maintaining the Institute in the Dominican Republic; examining the feasibility of establishing an advisory board composed of Member States to replace the Board of Trustees; creating the post of Deputy Director with specific fund-raising responsibilities; establishing a liaison for INSTRAW in DESA; and appointing a Director to be based at INSTRAW's headquarters. The Working Group called on INSTRAW to revitalize its activities and work closely in a coordinated manner with other UN bodies concerned with gender equality and the advancement of women. An October addendum to the Group's report [A/57/330/Add.1] contained an information note prepared by UNU regarding its governance and structure, financing, and policy and criteria for establishing and developing research and training centres, and programmes and other initiatives.

**Note of Secretary-General.** In an October note [A/57/452], the Secretary-General, noting the Working Group's recommendation that INSTRAW be linked with DESA, stated that, should the Assembly approve the recommendation, special attention should be given to developing the modalities implied in the terms "liaison" and "linkage"; clarifying the roles, liabilities and responsibilities of both entities, as well as the question of resource implications; considering the changes required in the statute; and clarifying the role of the Director and the proposed advisory board.

#### Financial implications

A November report of the Secretary-General [A/C.5/57/24] stated that, based on the Working Group's report (see above), the requirements of the General Assembly's draft text [A/C.3/57/L.16/Rev.1] (see **resolution 57/175**, p. 1167) for 2002-2003 would amount to \$1,809,500, of which \$500,000 would be provided from the UN regular budget and the balance from unidentified voluntary contributions. In December [A/57/7/Add.18], the Advisory Committee on Administra-

tive and Budgetary Questions noted that the amount of \$500,000 would represent a potential charge against the contingency fund and would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement to the Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee (see p. 1379).

By **decision 57/580** of 20 December, the Assembly approved the amount of \$250,000 against the contingency fund to finance core activities (salaries and common staff costs of the four Professional posts in the INSTRAW staffing table) and decided that an additional \$250,000 would be set aside in the contingency fund for 2002-2003 as an additional provision for core activities in 2003. It requested the Secretary-General to report before the end of the Assembly's resumed fifty-seventh (2003) session and to introduce the OIOS report (see p. 1165) to the Assembly before the end of that session.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 77], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/57/549], adopted **resolution 57/175** by recorded vote (136-7-29) [agenda item 102].

#### **Future operation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women**

##### *The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its previous resolutions on the subject, in particular resolutions 55/219 of 23 December 2000 and 56/125 of 19 December 2001,

*Recalling also* that, in its resolution 56/125, it decided to establish a working group mandated to make recommendations to the General Assembly on the future operation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Working Group on the Future Operation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, in which, the Working Group, inter alia, reaffirmed the mandate of the Institute in the field of gender equality and the advancement of women and stressed the need for it to be reformed and revitalized;

2. *Endorses* the recommendations made by the Working Group on the future operation of the Institute, and requests the Secretary-General to implement the measures recommended by the Working Group in this regard;

3. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Working Group established by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/125 in order to follow up the implementation of the measures referred to in paragraph 2 above, in close consultation with the Secretary-General;

4. *Acknowledges* that the measures referred to in paragraph 2 above should be taken as provided within

the context of the Secretary-General's programme for reform, as outlined in his report dated 14 July 1997 and in accordance with the recommendations contained in section VI.D of the report;

5. *Urges* the Institute to intensify its fund-raising efforts and to diversify its funding sources to include private foundations and inter-agency and inter-institutional collaborations, among others;

6. *Stresses* the critical importance of voluntary financial contributions by Member States to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women to enable it to carry out its mandate;

7. *Urges* Member States to make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund, particularly during the critical transitional period;

8. *Requests* the Working Group to submit a preliminary report on the follow-up to the implementation of the measures referred to in paragraph 2 above to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-seventh session, and to submit its final report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To appoint, without delay, and in consultation with the Working Group, a Director to be chosen from among candidates who demonstrate knowledge and expertise in, inter alia, gender issues and social research;

(b) To report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

#### RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 57/175:

*In favour:* Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:* Australia, Canada, Israel, Japan, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, United States.

*Abstaining:* Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan.