

Chapter X

Women

In 2004, the United Nations continued to promote the advancement of the status of women and ensure their rights within the framework of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth (1995) World Conference on Women, and the outcome of the General Assembly's twenty-third (2000) special session, which reviewed progress in their implementation (Beijing+5). In July, the Economic and Social Council agreed that, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the fifth anniversary of the Assembly's twenty-third special session, in 2005, the Commission on the Status of Women should convene a high-level plenary meeting at its forty-ninth session to review the implementation of both instruments and consider the current challenges and forward-looking strategies for the advancement of women. The Assembly, in welcoming that decision in December, called upon Governments, UN system entities and civil society, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), to continue to take action to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session. The Assembly also adopted resolutions on violence against women, crimes against women and girls committed in the name of honour, and trafficking in women and girls.

The Commission on the Status of Women, at its forty-eighth session in March, recommended to the Economic and Social Council for action agreed conclusions on the thematic issues of the role of men and boys in gender equality, and women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and resolution. The Council endorsed those agreed conclusions in July. It also adopted resolutions on women and girls in Afghanistan; Palestinian women; the release of women and children taken hostage; mainstreaming a gender perspective into UN policies and programmes; women, the girl child and AIDS; and the revitalization of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW).

The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) focused on the implementation of the first year of its 2004-2007 multi-year funding framework, targeting goals in the key areas of feminized poverty, violence against

women, the spread of HIV/AIDS, and gender equality in democratic governance and in post-conflict countries. UNIFEM also chaired the newly launched task force on gender equality and convened the first conference on gender justice in post-conflict situations in September.

INSTRAW completed the first phase of its revitalization process. The Institute's new Executive Board held its first session in July and October, at which it approved the 2004-2007 strategic framework, and the programme of work and budget for 2005. However, INSTRAW's financial situation remained precarious at year's end.

In August the Secretary-General presented the fifth update of the *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development*, which focused on women and international migration, and announced the appointment of Rachel Mayanja as the new Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women.

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

During 2004, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly continued to consider follow-up to the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, in particular, the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for 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 (2000) special session of the General 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 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 p. 777). The issue of mainstreaming a gender perspective into UN policies and programmes continued to be addressed (see p. 1166).

Commission action. In March, The Commission on the Status of Women, in resolution [E/2004/27 (res. 48/5)] adopted in March, decided that the review at its forty-ninth (2005) session of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the General Assembly's twenty-third session would focus on a more interactive dialogue among delegations, civil society and organizations within the United Nations, with an emphasis on the sharing of experiences and good practices in overcoming the remaining implementation challenges. The Commission recommended that the Economic and Social Council recommend to the Assembly the convening of a high-level plenary meeting of the Commission during its forty-ninth session on implementation of the Beijing Platform and the outcome of the Assembly's twenty-third session.

By **decision 2004/309** of 23 July, the Economic and Social Council took note of Commission resolution 48/5 (see above) and decided that the Commission would convene, at its forty-ninth session, a high-level plenary meeting open to all Member States, the outcome of which would be transmitted by the Chairperson, through the Council, to the Assembly's sixtieth (2005) session, including to its high-level event on the review of the Millennium Declaration.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 58/148 [YUN 2003, p. 1165], the Secretary-General, in an August report [A/59/214], reviewed steps taken by the Assembly and its Main Committees, the Economic and Social Council and the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women in support of gender mainstreaming in all UN programmes and policies. The report highlighted action taken relating to the World Summit on the Information Society [YUN 2003, p. 857]; follow-up to major international conferences and summits; and the São Paulo Consensus [TD/410], adopted by the eleventh session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XI) (see p. 954), which recognized that gender equality was essential for sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and employment creation.

The Secretary-General concluded that there was still limited qualitative attention to gender perspectives in reports submitted to the various committees, and few contained gender analysis and recommendations for further action. The

situation was no better with respect to gender perspectives in Assembly resolutions. He recommended that the Assembly continue to call for the inclusion of gender equality in reports submitted to it and its subsidiary bodies and gender perspectives in draft resolutions adopted by its subsidiary bodies, in particular concrete recommendations for action, and that it encourage reporting on progress made. The Assembly should ensure gender mainstreaming in the implementation of and follow-up to major international conferences and summits, in particular the review, in 2005, of the implementation of the 2000 United Nations Millennium Declaration [YUN 2000, p. 49].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 20 December [meeting 74], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee [A/59/497], adopted **resolution 59/168**, without vote [agenda item 99].

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 previous resolutions on the question, including resolution 58/148 of 22 December 2003,

Recalling also the contributions of the four World Conferences on Women, held in Mexico City, Copenhagen, Nairobi and Beijing, to the advancement of women and the promotion of gender equality,

Deeply convinced that the Beijing Declaration and 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", 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,

Reaffirming its commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session, including the twelve critical areas of concern, namely 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 of women, women and the media, women and the environment and the girl child,

Also reaffirming its commitment to overcoming obstacles encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session and to strengthening a national and international enabling environment in this regard,

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 gender perspectives 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, as well as the review and appraisal by the Economic and Social Council of the system-wide implementation of its agreed conclusions 1997/2 of 18 July 1997 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, the inclusion of the question of gender mainstreaming in its agenda, the consideration of annual progress made in gender mainstreaming and the attention given to the gender perspective in the outcomes of its substantive session of 2004,

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 women and peace and security held in the Security Council on 28 October 2004, as well as previous debates,

Bearing in mind its relevant resolutions and Security Council resolution 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000,

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

2. *Reaffirms* the goals, objectives and commitments contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and 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;

3. *Stresses* the need to undertake further action to ensure the full and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, inter alia, through the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, the mainstreaming of gender perspectives into all policies and programmes and the promotion of full and equal participation and empowerment of women and enhanced international cooperation for the full implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action;

4. *Underlines* the significance of the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which will mark the tenth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the fifth anniversary of the twenty-third special session, and at which the Commission will review the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session and consider the current challenges and forward-looking strategies for the advancement of women, as well as the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General;

5. *Stresses* 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;

6. *Welcomes* the opportunity provided by the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women to demonstrate continued and full commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

7. *Encourages* participation in the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women at a high political level;

8. *Invites* States and the United Nations system to publicize the forthcoming session of the Commission on the Status of Women, including through consultation with civil society;

9. *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 the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

10. *Emphasizes* that the creation of an enabling environment at the national and international levels, including by ensuring the participation of women on an equal basis with men at all levels of decision-making, is necessary to ensure the full participation of women in all aspects of social, political and economic activities, and in this regard 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;

11. *Emphasizes also* the importance of men and boys taking joint responsibility with women and girls in the promotion of gender equality, taking into account the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-eighth session on 12 March 2004;

12. *Welcomes* the contributions of the Commission on the Status of Women to the follow-up and review of the 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. *Stresses* the importance of implementing the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women since its fortieth session;

14. *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 resolutions 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 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 moni-

toring of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

15. *Recalls* that, in accordance with resolution 57/270 B, the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the twenty-third special session will continue to 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, and also recalls in this regard the request to each functional commission of the Economic and Social Council to examine its methods of work in order to better pursue the implementation of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits and report to the Council no later than 2005 on the outcome of this examination;

16. *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 consultation with Governments, calls for the promotion of further cooperation in that respect among Governments and, where appropriate, national machineries of the same region, and welcomes in this regard the contributions of the United Nations regional commissions to the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women;

17. *Encourages* the Economic and Social Council to reiterate its request to the regional commissions that have not yet done so, 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;

18. *Welcomes* Economic and Social Council decision 2004/309 of 23 July 2004, in which the Chairperson of the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women is requested to submit the outcome of the session, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session, including to the high-level event of the Assembly on the review of the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

19. *Emphasizes* that the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the promotion of gender equality and of women's empowerment and participation, together with the mainstreaming of a gender perspective, are among the essential elements for advancing the implementation of the Millennium Declaration, with a view, in particular, to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and the outcomes of United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions;

20. *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;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to highlight the contribution of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action to the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and to integrate gender perspectives in his preparations, including reports, for the review of the Millennium Declaration;

22. *Calls upon* Member States to incorporate gender perspectives in their preparations for the review of the Millennium Declaration;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his report on the follow-up to the 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;

24. *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;

25. *Urges* States parties to comply fully with their obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and those that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol thereto;

26. *Recognizes* the important role of law, including legislation, in the promotion of gender equality and the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, commends the progress made by States in the area of legal reform, and calls upon States to continue their efforts to repeal laws and eradicate practices that discriminate against women and to adopt laws and promote practices that protect the rights of women and promote gender equality;

27. *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, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;

28. *Calls upon* Governments, the United Nations system and all other relevant actors to continue to integrate gender perspectives into the implementation of and follow-up to recent United Nations conferences, summits and special sessions;

29. *Affirms* 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 continue to promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming gender perspectives, including through the work of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the maintenance of gender units, focal points and gender specialists, and with the active support of all United Nations bodies, including by ensuring that all United Nations personnel, especially in the field, receive training on gender perspectives in their work, including gender impact analysis, and that appropriate follow-up training is provided;

30. *Recognizes* the need to further include gender perspectives in the work of its Main Committees and other intergovernmental bodies;

31. *Requests* all bodies that deal with programme and budgetary matters, including the Committee for Programme and Coordination, to ensure that all programmes, plans and programme budgets visibly mainstream gender perspectives;

32. *Encourages* 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, through, inter alia, the system-wide implementation of its agreed conclusions 1997/2 and its resolution 2004/4 of 7 July 2004;

33. *Welcomes* the convening of the World Summit on the Information Society in Tunis in 2005, and encourages Governments and all other stakeholders to integrate a gender perspective into the preparatory processes and outcome documents, taking into account the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-seventh session on 14 March 2003;

34. *Recognizes* the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, and urges Governments and the United Nations system to take further steps to ensure the integration of gender perspectives and the full and equal participation of women at all levels of decision-making and implementation in all aspects of conflict prevention and resolution and peacebuilding activities and to ensure that efforts to strengthen the rule of law and transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict situations incorporate gender perspectives, with a view to achieving gender equality in constitutional, legislative and judicial reform;

35. *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;

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

37. *Also 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 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, 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;

38. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth 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 resolutions 57/181 [YUN 2002, p. 1139] and 58/185 [YUN 2003, p. 1172], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/59/281] providing information about legislative, policy and other measures undertaken by 26 Member States, and by UN bodies and entities to combat all forms of violence against women, including honour crimes (see p. 1150). Those included action taken to adhere to international and regional human rights instruments issues, including those specifically addressing the rights of women, the elaboration of new national action plans to combat violence against women, and campaigns to raise public awareness about domestic violence and discriminatory practices against women. The report discussed issues and considered measures taken by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-eighth session (2004), the Commission on Human Rights, human rights treaty bodies and UN system organizations. Among notable UN system activities were the World Health Organization (WHO) multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence against women, and its research on sexual violence. The report also provided an update on the preparation of the Secretary-General's in-depth study on all forms of violence against women, for which a funding proposal outlining the framework for the study, the areas to be studied, the scope and methodology and efforts to identify a project officer was prepared.

The Secretary-General recommended that Governments accelerate the preparation of comprehensive legislative frameworks to criminalize all forms of violence against women, including honour crimes; put in place adequate penalties for perpetrators; and ensure that violence against women was prosecuted and punished. Priority attention should be given to adequate funding for the implementation of legislation, in addition to efforts to monitor and assess the impact of actions taken; raise awareness about all forms of violence against women as a violation of human rights of women; and improve data collection in all areas of violence against women. Support should be provided for anti-violence networks, and partnerships should be encouraged between governmental and non-governmental actors working for attitudinal and legislative change.

UNIFEM activities. In compliance with General Assembly resolution 50/166 [YUN 1995,

p. 1188], the Secretary-General transmitted a December report [E/CN.6/2005/7-E/CN.4/2005/70] of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) on the elimination of violence against women, which covered its 2004 activities undertaken in that regard (see p. 1171). Those activities concentrated on specific thematic inter-linkages with gender-based violence, with grant-making during the year focusing on strategies to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in conflict and post-conflict settings. In October, the Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women provided \$900,000 to 17 initiatives in 21 countries, bringing the total awarded since its inception in 1997 to \$8.3 million in grants to 175 initiatives in more than 96 countries.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 20 December [meeting 74], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/59/497], adopted **resolution 59/167** without vote [agenda item 99].

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 Discrimination 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 57/181 of 18 December 2002 and the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-eighth session on 12 March 2004,

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 marriage,

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. *Welcomes* 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 marriage;

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 enjoyment 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. *Calls upon* States to encourage and support the active participation of men and boys in the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence, especially gender-based violence, and to increase the awareness of men and boys of their responsibility in ending violence against women;

10. *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;

11. *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;

12. *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;

13. *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;

14. *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;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on the matter to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session.

Honour crimes

The Secretary-General, in his August report [A/59/281] on violence against women (see p. 1148), provided information on measures taken by 23

Member States and the UN system to eliminate honour crimes against women, including resolutions adopted in April by the Commission on Human Rights relating to honour crimes and to violence against women migrant workers (see p. 777). Several Member States indicated that crimes committed in the name of honour did not exist, or were not known to exist, and were not covered by any specific legislation, while other States did not distinguish them from other crimes of violence against women and dealt with them under the relevant provisions of their criminal code. In some countries, policies and measures were being developed to provide greater insight into the nature and scale of honour and honour-related violence. Guidelines were also being developed to give more adequate protection to women in the asylum process. The Secretary-General recommended that crimes against women committed in the name of honour, where reported, should be criminalized and speedily prosecuted.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 20 December [meeting 74], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/59/496], adopted **resolution 59/165** without vote [agenda item 98].

Working towards the elimination of crimes against women and girls 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,

Reaffirming also the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, as well as the goals and commitments contained in 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",

Recalling its resolutions 57/179 of 18 December 2002 and 58/147 of 22 December 2003, as well as Commission on Human Rights resolution 2004/46 of 20 April 2004,

Recalling also its resolution 58/185 of 22 December 2003, in which it called for an in-depth study on violence against women, including crimes committed in the name of honour, as well as its resolution 57/190 of 18 December 2002, in which it called for an in-depth study on violence against children,

Bearing in mind that States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish the perpetrators of crimes against women and girls committed in the name of honour 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,

Stressing also the need to identify and effectively address the root causes of violence against women, in particular crimes committed in the name of honour, which take many different forms,

Aware that inadequate data on violence against women, including crimes committed in the name of honour, hinder informed policy analysis, at both the domestic and the international levels, and efforts to eliminate such violence,

Deeply concerned that women and girls continue to be 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 noting in this regard successive reports 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,

Emphasizing also that the elimination of crimes against women and girls 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 and girls committed in the name of honour,

1. *Welcomes:*

(a) The report of the Secretary-General on violence against women;

(b) 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 national 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;

(c) 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;

(d) The work carried out by civil society, including non-governmental organizations, such as women's or-

ganizations, 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 and girls 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 and girls committed in the name of honour and punish the perpetrators;

(d) To intensify efforts to raise awareness of the need to prevent and eliminate crimes against women and girls committed and condoned 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;

(e) To intensify efforts to raise awareness about the responsibility of men to promote gender equality and bring about change in attitudes to eliminate gender stereotypes, including, specifically, their role in preventing crimes against women and girls committed in the name of honour;

(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 and girls 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, including in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, psychological health and other relevant areas, rehabilitation and reintegration into society;

(j) To address effectively complaints of crimes against women and girls 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 sex and age, and to make any such information available to the Secretariat for use in the in-depth study on violence against women, in accordance with resolution 58/185, and the in-depth study on violence against children, in accordance with resolution 57/190;

(l) To include, where appropriate, in their reports to the human rights treaty bodies information on legal and policy measures adopted and implemented in their efforts to prevent and eliminate crimes against women and girls committed in the name of honour;

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 and girls committed in the name of honour and at addressing the root causes of such crimes;

(b) The relevant human rights treaty bodies, where appropriate, and the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences to continue to address this issue;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution in his report on the question of violence against women to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session.

Women, peace and security

In response to Security Council resolution 1325(2000) on women and peace and security [YUN 2000, p. 1113], the Secretary-General reported in October [S/2004/814] on progress achieved thus far and identified gaps and challenges in the implementation of that resolution within the intergovernmental processes, and in the areas of conflict prevention and early warning; peace processes and negotiations; peacekeeping operations; humanitarian response; post-conflict reconstruction; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; prevention of and response to gender-based violence in armed conflict; gender balance in recruitment; coordination and partnership; monitoring and reporting; and information dissemination and exchange.

Initiatives were taken to develop policies, action plans, guidelines and indicators, increase access to gender expertise, provide training and promote consultation with and participation of women, increase attention to human rights and support women's groups. Gaps and challenges remained in relation to women's participation in conflict prevention and peace processes, and attention to the contribution and needs of women in decision-making positions.

The Secretary-General said that he intended to develop system-wide strategies and action plans for increasing attention to gender perspectives in conflict prevention and for mainstreaming them into peacekeeping activities, particularly in the planning of new operations, and to review recent peace processes and analyse the obstacles to and missed opportunities for women's full participation in negotiations and develop strategies accordingly. He also intended to routinely incorporate gender perspectives in all thematic and country reports to the Security Council and urged Member States, UN entities and civil society to develop guidelines and training initiatives based on the model provisions on promoting gender equality in peace agreements and guidelines for increasing attention to the needs and contribution of women and girls in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes. He made other recommendations for action by Member States, the General Assembly, the Security Council, civil society and UN system organizations.

He concluded that, since the adoption of resolution 1325(2000), a positive shift had taken place in international understanding of the importance of women's participation as equal partners in all areas related to peace and security. However, the real test of the adequacy of efforts so far taken was in their impact on the ground. Gender perspectives were not systematically incorporated in planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting. Increasing the number of women in high-level, decision-making positions in peacekeeping operations was a challenge, as was the protection and promotion of the human rights of women and girls in armed conflicts. Inadequate resource allocation had also contributed to the slow progress in implementing the resolution. He recommended that budgetary resources be specifically allocated for gender mainstreaming and initiatives targeted at women and girls.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 28 October [meeting 5066], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2004/40** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council reaffirms its commitment to the continuing and full implementation of its resolution 1325(2000), and welcomes the increasing focus on the situation of women and girls in armed conflict since the adoption of resolution 1325(2000) in October 2000. The Council recalls the statement by its President of 31 October 2002 and the meeting held on 29 October 2003 as valuable demonstrations of that commitment.

The Council also recalls the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and 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", in particular the commitments concerning women and armed conflict.

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

The Council strongly condemns the continued acts of gender-based violence in situations of armed conflict. The Council also condemns all violations of the human rights of women and girls in situations of armed conflict and the use of sexual exploitation, violence and abuse. The Council urges the complete cessation by all parties of such acts with immediate effect. It stresses the need to end impunity for such acts as part of a comprehensive approach to seeking peace, justice, truth and national reconciliation. The Council welcomes the efforts of the United Nations system to establish and implement strategies and programmes to prevent and report on gender-based violence, and urges the Secretary-General to further his efforts in this regard. The Council requests the Secretary-General to ensure that human rights monitors and members of commissions of inquiry have the necessary expertise and training in gender-based crimes and in the conduct of investigations, including in a culturally sensitive manner favourable to the needs, dignity and rights of the victims. The Council urges all international and national courts specifically established to prosecute war-related crimes to provide gender expertise, gender training for all staff and gender-sensitive programmes for victims and witness protection. It emphasizes the urgent need for programmes that provide support to survivors of gender-based violence. The Council further requests that appropriate attention be given to the issue of gender-based violence in all future reports to it.

The Council reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention of conflict and supports the Secretary-General's intention to develop a comprehensive system-wide strategy and action plan for increasing attention to gender perspectives in conflict prevention. The Council urges all relevant actors to work collaboratively, including through strengthened interaction with women's organizations, to ensure the full participation of women and the incorporation of a gender perspective in all conflict prevention work.

The Council also welcomes the Secretary-General's intention to develop a comprehensive strategy and action plan for mainstreaming a gender perspective into all peacekeeping activities and operations and to incorporate gender perspectives in each thematic and country report to the Council. In support of this process, the Council reaffirms its commitment to integrate fully gender perspectives into the mandates of all peacekeeping missions. It recognizes the con-

tribution of the gender adviser within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to advancing the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), and requests the Secretary-General to consider an equivalent arrangement within the Department of Political Affairs to further support such implementation.

The Council considers that an increase in the representation of women in all aspects of conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations and humanitarian response is urgently needed. To that end, the Council urges the Secretary-General to strengthen his efforts to identify suitable female candidates, including, as appropriate, from troop-contributing countries, in conformity with Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations and taking into account the principle of equitable geographical balance. Such efforts should include the implementation of targeted recruitment strategies and also seek to identify candidates for senior level positions, including in the military and civilian police services.

The Council recognizes the vital contribution of women in promoting peace and their role in reconstruction processes. The Council welcomes the Secretary-General's intention to develop strategies to encourage the full participation of women in all stages of the peace process. The Council also requests the Secretary-General to encourage gender mainstreaming in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes by developing guidelines to increase attention to the needs of women and girls in such programmes. It further requests the Secretary-General to mainstream a gender perspective in all aspects of post-conflict reconstruction programmes, including through the strengthening of gender theme groups in countries emerging from conflict, and to ensure that all policies and programmes in support of post-conflict constitutional, judicial and legislative reform, including truth and reconciliation and electoral processes, promote the full participation of women, gender equality and women's human rights.

The Council recognizes the important contribution of civil society to the implementation of resolution 1325(2000), and encourages Member States to continue to collaborate with civil society, in particular with local women's networks and organizations, in order to strengthen implementation. To that end, the Council welcomes the efforts of Member States in implementing resolution 1325(2000) at the national level, including the development of national action plans, and encourages Member States to continue to pursue such implementation.

The Council recognizes that significant progress has been made in the implementation of resolution 1325(2000) in certain areas of United Nations peace and security work. The Council expresses its readiness to further promote the implementation of this resolution, and in particular through active cooperation with the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. In order to further consolidate this progress, the Council requests the Secretary-General to submit to it in October 2005 an action plan, with time lines, for implementing resolution 1325(2000) across the United Nations system, with a view to strengthening commitment and accountabil-

ity at the highest levels, as well as to allow for improved accountability, monitoring and reporting on progress on implementation within the United Nations system.

Conflict prevention, management and resolution

On 2 March [E/2004/27], the Commission on the Status of Women held a panel discussion on women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution in post-conflict peace-building. It had before it a report of the Secretary-General on the subject [E/CN.6/2004/10]. The report was based on the recommendations of an expert group meeting (10-13 November 2003, Ottawa, Canada) on the theme "Peace agreements as a means for promoting gender equality and ensuring participation of women—a framework of model provisions" [EMG/PEACE/2003/REPORT]; case studies and contributions provided by regional experts, UN entities and civil society; and the Secretary-General's study and report on women, peace and security [YUN 2002, p. 1142]. It covered UN peace and security initiatives, and the role of peace agreements in promoting gender equality and the participation of women in peace processes.

According to the report, although there was increasing understanding of the important contribution of women to peace-building, they continued to be largely absent from formal peace negotiations. Support by donors and the international community of women's efforts for their effective engagement in formal peace processes was often lacking, provided late or not sustained long enough to have an impact. Customs, traditions and stereotypes also limited or narrowly defined women's roles in public life and decision-making. Women were often excluded from internationally sponsored peace processes because they were not political leaders or political decision-makers, nor had they participated in conflicts as combatants. Even when women did participate in formal peace agreements, they often lacked the capacity to contribute to shaping the agenda of such negotiations and a mandate to speak on behalf of the majority of women. Moreover, issues related to equality and the position of women within post-conflict society were typically excluded from peace agreements, as gender relations were rarely perceived as central to the causes of conflict and hence the solution.

The expert group meeting (above) identified the obligations of various actors in peace processes to enhance attention to gender equality and participation of women, and with regard to the gender-sensitive implementation of peace agreements. The Secretary-General recommended that the Commission take note of the recommen-

dations of the expert group and call for their systematic use by all actors, or consider the actions he was recommending in his report to strengthen the use of peace agreements as tools for the promotion of gender equality and the participation of women. It might also wish to invite different actors, particularly UN entities, to use the Secretary-General's recommendations as a guide for action in all peace processes.

Also before the Commission was the report of an expert group meeting on enhancing women's participation in electoral processes in post-conflict countries (New York, 19-22 January) [E/CN.6/2004/CRP.7], which made recommendations on the incorporation of gender perspectives into the phases of elections and the roles of a diverse range of actors in support of women's full participation.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 21 July [meeting 47], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women [E/2004/27], adopted **resolution 2004/12** without vote [agenda item 14 (a)].

Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and resolution and in post-conflict peace-building

The Economic and Social Council

Endorses the following agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-eighth session with respect to women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and resolution and in post-conflict peace-building:

1. The Commission on the Status of Women recalls and reiterates the strategic objectives and actions of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 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", and its agreed conclusions on women and armed conflict adopted at its forty-second session in 1998. It also recalls the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Security Council resolution 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000 on women and peace and security and all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including resolution 58/142 of 22 December 2003 on women and political participation.

2. The Commission calls for the full respect of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, in particular Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War.

3. The Commission calls for the promotion and protection of the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls at all times, including during conflict prevention, conflict management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peacebuilding. It further calls for protection and security for women and girls under threat of vio-

lence and their freedom of movement and participation in social, political and economic activities.

4. The Commission recognizes that the root causes of armed conflict are multidimensional in nature and thus require a comprehensive and integrated approach to the prevention of armed conflict.

5. International cooperation based on the principles of the Charter of the United Nations enhances women's full and equal participation in conflict prevention, conflict management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peacebuilding and contributes to the promotion of sustainable and durable peace.

6. To achieve sustainable and durable peace, the full and equal participation of women and girls and the integration of gender perspectives in all aspects of conflict prevention, management and resolution and in post-conflict peacebuilding is essential. Yet women continue to be underrepresented in the processes, institutions and mechanisms dealing with these areas. Further effort is therefore needed to promote gender equality and ensure women's equal participation at all levels of decision-making in all relevant institutions. Further effort, including consideration of adequate resourcing, is also needed to build and consolidate the capacity of women and women's groups to participate fully in these processes, as well as to promote understanding of the essential role of women. In this regard, the international community should use lessons learned from actual experience to identify and overcome barriers to women's equal participation.

7. The Commission recognizes that while both men and women suffer from the consequences of armed conflict, there is a differential impact on women and girls, who are often subject to, and affected by, particular forms of violence and deprivation. The Commission calls for measures to prevent gender-based violence, including sexual violence against women and girls, as well as trafficking in human beings, especially trafficking in women and girls, arising from armed conflict and in post-conflict situations and to prosecute perpetrators of such crimes.

8. The Commission encourages the collection and dissemination of sex-disaggregated data and information for planning, evaluation and analysis in order to promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into conflict prevention, management and resolution and in post-conflict peace-building.

9. Peace agreements provide a vehicle for the promotion of gender equality and the participation of women in post-conflict situations. Significant opportunities for women's participation arise in the preparatory phase leading up to a peace agreement. The content of a peace agreement likewise offers significant scope for ensuring that the rights, concerns and priorities of women and girls are fully addressed. Finally, once a peace agreement has been concluded, its implementation should be pursued with explicit attention to women's full and equal participation and the goal of gender equality.

10. Women's full and equal participation and the integration of gender perspectives are crucial to democratic electoral processes in post-conflict situations. A gender-sensitive constitutional and legal framework, especially electoral laws and regulations, is necessary to ensure that women can fully participate in such processes. Political parties can play a crucial role in pro-

moting women's equal participation. Steps are also necessary to ensure that women participate fully in, and that a gender perspective is incorporated throughout, the design and implementation of voter and civic education programmes and in election administration and observation.

11. Governments in particular, as well as the United Nations system, especially those United Nations entities having a mandate with regard to peace and security, and other relevant international, regional and national actors, including civil society, have a responsibility for advancing gender equality and ensuring women's full and equal participation in all aspects of peace processes and in post-conflict peacebuilding, reconstruction, rehabilitation and reconciliation, where they are participants in these processes.

12. In regard to conflict prevention, the Commission calls upon Governments, as well as all other relevant participants in these processes:

(a) To improve the collection, analysis and inclusion of information on women and gender issues as part of conflict prevention and early warning efforts;

(b) To ensure better collaboration and coordination between efforts to promote gender equality and efforts aimed at conflict prevention;

(c) To support capacity-building, especially for civil society, in particular for women's organizations, in order to increase community commitment to conflict prevention;

(d) To continue to make resources available nationally and internationally for the prevention of conflict and ensure women's participation in the elaboration and implementation of strategies for preventing conflict.

13. In regard to peace processes, the Commission calls upon Governments, as well as all other relevant participants in these processes:

(a) To promote women's full, equal and effective participation as actors in all peace processes, in particular negotiation, mediation and facilitation;

(b) To ensure that peace agreements address, from a gender perspective, the full range of security aspects, including legal, political, social, economic and physical, and also address the specific needs and priorities of women and girls;

(c) To ensure, in the implementation phase of a peace agreement, that all provisions concerning gender equality and the participation of women are fully complied with and that all provisions of the peace agreement, including those concerning demobilization, disarmament, reintegration and rehabilitation, are implemented in a manner that promotes gender equality and ensures women's full and equal participation;

(d) To promote women's full and equal access to public information relative to peace processes;

(e) To review, on a regular basis, their contributions to the promotion of gender equality and the full and equal participation of women, and to fulfil their monitoring, accountability and reporting obligations in the implementation of peace agreements;

(f) With regard to gender mainstreaming, 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 re-

construction, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding and, in this regard, support the involvement of women's organizations, community-based organizations and non-governmental organizations;

(g) To develop and strengthen the provision of gender advisory capacity and gender-sensitive training programmes for all staff in missions relating to armed conflicts. In this regard, the Commission takes note of the report of the Secretary-General.

14. In regard to post-conflict peacebuilding, the Commission calls upon Governments, as well as all other relevant participants in these processes,

Concerning elections:

(a) To ensure equal access of women in all stages of the electoral process and to consider the adoption of measures for increasing women's participation in elections through, *inter alia*, individual voter registration, temporary gender-specific positive actions and access to information, representation on bodies administering elections and as election monitors and observers, as well as encouraging political parties to involve women fully and equally in all aspects of their operations;

(b) To ensure equal access for women to voter and civic education, to provide women candidates with full support, training and financial resources and to eliminate discriminatory practices hampering women's participation either as voters or candidates.

Concerning reconstruction and rehabilitation:

(a) To ensure the full participation of women on an equal basis in the reconstruction and rehabilitation process;

(b) To ensure the equal access of women to social services, in particular in the areas of health and education, and, in this regard, to promote the provision of adequate health care and health services, assistance for women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations and counselling for post-conflict trauma;

(c) To facilitate equal employment opportunities for women to achieve economic empowerment.

15. The realization and the achievement of the goals of gender equality, development and peace need to be supported by the allocation of the necessary human, financial and material resources for specific and targeted activities to ensure gender equality at the local, national, regional and international levels, as well as by enhanced and increased international cooperation.

16. The Commission requests the Secretary-General to disseminate the present agreed conclusions widely, including to the high-level panel on global security threats and reform of the international system.

The Conference on Gender Justice in Post-Conflict Situations (New York, 15-17 September) [S/2004/862], organized by UNIFEM and the International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC), brought together women legal and judicial officials from over twelve conflict-affected countries and regions, UN officials, Member States' representatives, regional organizations, academic institutions, foundations and private entities. The Conference considered: the reform of national laws (including customary/traditional systems) and constitutions in order to address discrimina-

tory practices and gaps and to advance the protection of women's rights; the establishment of more gender-sensitive justice and transitional justice mechanisms and the provision of reparations and rehabilitative services to victims; rehabilitation and reform of the judicial infrastructure, institutions and processes to enhance women's involvement in, and their access to, justice; increased employment and specialized training for women judges, prosecutors and lawyers; establishing/ strengthening of institutions, mechanisms, policies and strategies to redress gender-based disparities; addressing the factors preventing equal access to public services and economic opportunities; increased participation of women in peace-making processes and negotiation of peace agreements and their implementation; participation of women and incorporation of gender dimensions in the planning and implementation of UN peace operations; enhancing responsibility and accountability of UN peacekeeping and humanitarian personnel in relation to the female population in deployed areas; and the prioritization of gender justice within the UN system and new structures to accelerate progress on gender justice.

The conference recommended the establishment of a high-level mechanism to determine the issues and recommendations requiring follow-up action, and to discuss the need for a separate UN office to coordinate assistance for justice systems and related institutions, including gender justice requirements.

Women and children taken hostage

In response to Commission resolution 46/1 [YUN 2002, p. 1144], the Secretary-General transmitted a report [E/CN.6/2004/6 & Corr.1] on the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, which summarized information provided by 11 Member States and relevant UN system entities. He recommended that the Commission might wish to renew its commitment to resolution 46/1 and encourage Governments to report on its implementation and relevance in the context of the follow-up to Security Council resolution 1325(2000).

Communication. On 4 March [E/CN.6/2004/13], Armenia drew attention to a number of allegations contained in the Secretary-General's report (see p. 1154), which, it said, were against it. Armenia refuted those allegations.

Commission action. In a March resolution [E/2004/27 (res. 48/3)], the Commission emphasized the importance of objective, responsible and impartial information on hostages, verifiable by international organizations, in facilitating their

release, and called for assistance to those organizations in that regard. It requested the Secretary-General and international organizations to facilitate the release of civilian women and children taken hostage. It further requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Commission at its fiftieth (2006) session on the implementation of the resolution.

Gender equality

Role of men and boys

In March [E/2004/27], the Commission on the Status of Women reviewed the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality. It had before it a summary of its 2 March panel discussion [E/CN.6/2004/14/CRP.10] and the Secretary-General's report [E/CN.6/2004/9] on the subject, which focused on the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality in socialization and education; as agents of change in the labour market and workplace; in the sharing of family responsibilities, including caring roles; and the prevention of HIV/AIDS. The report concluded that, since men had the potential to bring about change in attitudes, roles and relationships, they should be actively involved in developing and implementing legislation and policies to foster gender equality, and in providing positive role models for doing so in the family, workplace and society at large. The report provided specific recommendations for action by Governments, international organizations, including the United Nations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector, the media and other stakeholders.

On 12 March, the Commission took note of the Secretary-General's report.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 21 July [meeting 47], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women [E/2004/27], adopted **resolution 2004/11** without vote [agenda item 14(a)].

Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality

The Economic and Social Council

Endorses the following agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-eighth session with respect to the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality:

1. The Commission on the Status of Women recalls and reiterates that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action encouraged men to participate fully in all actions towards gender equality and urged the establishment of the principle of shared power and responsibility between women and men at home, in the community, in the workplace and in the wider national and international communities. The Commission also

recalls and reiterates 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 that men must take joint responsibility with women for the promotion of gender equality.

2. The Commission recognizes that, while men and boys sometimes face discriminatory barriers and practices, they can and do make contributions to gender equality in many capacities, including as individuals and as members of families, social groups and communities, in all spheres of society.

3. The Commission recognizes that gender inequalities still exist and are reflected in imbalances of power between women and men in all spheres of society. The Commission further recognizes that everyone benefits from gender equality and that the negative impacts of gender inequality are borne by society as a whole and emphasizes, therefore, that men and boys, by taking responsibility themselves and working jointly in partnership with women and girls, are essential to the achievement of the goals of gender equality, development and peace. The Commission recognizes the capacity of men and boys to bring about change in attitudes, relationships and access to resources and decision-making, which are critical for the promotion of gender equality and the full enjoyment of all human rights by women.

4. The Commission acknowledges and encourages men and boys to continue to take positive initiatives to eliminate gender stereotypes and promote gender equality, including combating violence against women, through networks, peer programmes, information campaigns and training programmes. The Commission acknowledges the critical role of gender-sensitive education and training in achieving gender equality.

5. The Commission also recognizes that the participation of men and boys in achieving gender equality must be consistent with the empowerment of women and girls, and acknowledges that efforts must be made to address the undervaluation of many types of work, abilities and roles associated with women. In this regard, it is important that resources for gender equality initiatives for men and boys do not compromise equal opportunities and resources for women and girls.

6. The Commission urges Governments and, as appropriate, the relevant funds, programmes and 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:

(a) Encourage and support the capacity of men and boys to foster gender equality, including by acting in partnership with women and girls as agents for change and providing positive leadership, in particular where men are still key decision makers, responsible for policies, programmes and legislation, as well as holders of economic and organizational power and public resources;

(b) Promote understanding of the importance of fathers, mothers, legal guardians and other caregivers for the well-being of children and the promotion of gender equality, and the need to develop policies, programmes and school curricula that encourage and maximize their positive involvement in achieving

gender equality and positive results for children, families and communities;

(c) Create and improve training and education programmes to enhance awareness and knowledge among men and women of their roles as parents, legal guardians and caregivers and the importance of sharing family responsibilities, and include fathers as well as mothers in programmes that teach infant childcare and development;

(d) Develop and include in education programmes for parents, legal guardians and other caregivers information on ways and means to increase the capacity of men to raise children in a manner oriented towards gender equality;

(e) Encourage men and boys to work with women and girls in the design of policies and programmes for men and boys aimed at gender equality, and foster the involvement of men and boys in gender mainstreaming efforts in order to ensure improved design of all policies and programmes;

(f) Encourage the design and implementation of programmes at all levels to accelerate a sociocultural change towards gender equality, especially through the upbringing and educational process and by changing harmful traditional perceptions of and attitudes regarding male and female roles in order to achieve the full and equal participation of women and men in society;

(g) Develop and implement programmes for pre-schools, schools, community centres, youth organizations, sport clubs and centres and other groups dealing with children and youth, including training for teachers, social workers and other professionals who deal with children, in order to foster positive attitudes and behaviour with regard to gender equality;

(h) Promote critical reviews of school curricula, textbooks and other information, education and communication materials at all levels in order to recommend ways to strengthen the promotion of gender equality that involves the engagement of boys as well as girls;

(i) Develop and implement strategies to educate boys and girls and men and women about tolerance, mutual respect for all individuals and the promotion of all human rights;

(j) Develop and utilize a variety of methods in public information campaigns on the role of men and boys in promoting gender equality, including through approaches specifically targeting boys and young men;

(k) Engage media, advertising and other related professionals, through the development of training and other programmes, on the importance of promoting gender equality, the non-stereotypical portrayal of women and girls and men and boys and on the harm caused by portraying women and girls in a demeaning or exploitative manner, as well as on the enhanced participation of women and girls in the media;

(l) Take effective measures, to the extent consistent with freedom of expression, to combat the growing sexualization of, and use of pornography in, media content and in the rapid development of information and communication technology, encourage men in the media to refrain from presenting women as inferior beings and exploiting them as sexual objects and commodities, combat information and communications technology- and media-based violence against women,

including criminal misuse of information and communication technology for sexual harassment, sexual exploitation and trafficking in women and girls, and support the development and use of such technology as a resource for the empowerment of women and girls, including those affected by violence, abuse and other forms of sexual exploitation;

(m) Adopt and implement legislation and/or policies to close the gap between women's and men's pay, and promote reconciliation of occupational and family responsibilities, including through the reduction of occupational segregation, the introduction or expansion of parental leave, and flexible working arrangements, such as voluntary part-time work, teleworking and other home-based work;

(n) Encourage men, through training and education, to participate fully in the care and support of others, including older persons, persons with disabilities and sick persons, in particular children and other dependants;

(o) Encourage the active involvement of men and boys, through education projects and peer-based programmes, in eliminating gender stereotypes as well as gender inequality, in particular in relation to sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS, as well as their full participation in prevention, advocacy, care, treatment, support and impact evaluation programmes;

(p) Ensure men's access to and utilization of reproductive and sexual health services and programmes, including HIV/AIDS-related programmes and services, and encourage men to participate with women in programmes designed to prevent the transmission and treat all forms of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections;

(q) Design and implement programmes to encourage and enable men to adopt safe and responsible sexual and reproductive behaviour and to use effectively methods to prevent unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS;

(r) Encourage and support men and boys to take an active part in the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence, especially gender-based violence, including in the context of HIV/AIDS, and increase awareness of men's and boys' responsibility in ending the cycle of violence, inter alia, through the promotion of attitudinal and behavioural change, integrated education and training prioritizing the safety of women and children, the prosecution and rehabilitation of perpetrators of violence and support for survivors, recognizing that men and boys also experience violence;

(s) Encourage increased understanding among men of how violence, including trafficking for the purposes of commercialized sexual exploitation, forced marriage and forced labour, harms women, men and children and undermines gender equality, and consider measures aimed at eliminating the demand for trafficked women and children;

(t) Encourage and support both women and men in leadership positions, including political leaders, traditional leaders, business leaders, community and religious leaders, musicians, artists and athletes, to provide positive role models of gender equality;

(u) Encourage men in leadership positions to ensure equal access for women to education, property rights and inheritance rights and to promote equal access to information technology and business and eco-

conomic opportunities, including in international trade, in order to provide women with the tools to enable them to take part fully and equally in economic and political decision-making processes at all levels;

(v) Identify and fully utilize all contexts in which a large number of men can be reached, particularly in male-dominated institutions, industries and associations, in order to sensitize men on their roles and responsibilities in the promotion of gender equality and the full enjoyment of all human rights by women, including in relation to HIV/AIDS and violence against women;

(w) Develop and use statistics to support and/or carry out research, inter alia, on the cultural, social and economic conditions that influence the attitudes and behaviour of men and boys towards women and girls, their awareness of gender inequalities and their involvement in promoting gender equality;

(x) Carry out research on the views of men and boys on gender equality and their perceptions of their roles, through which further programmes and policies can be developed, identify and widely disseminate good practices, and assess the impact of efforts undertaken to engage men and boys in achieving gender equality;

(y) Promote and encourage the representation of men in institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women;

(z) Encourage men and boys to support the equal participation of women in conflict prevention, management and resolution and in post-conflict peace-building;

7. The Commission urges all entities within the United Nations system to take into account the recommendations contained in the present agreed conclusions and to disseminate the agreed conclusions widely.

Women's health

Women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS

In a March resolution on women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS [E/2004/27 (res. 48/2)], the Commission on the Status of Women stressed that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls were fundamental elements in the reduction of their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and that their advancement was key to reversing the pandemic. It welcomed the launch in February by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and its partners, of the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS to raise awareness of the effects of HIV/AIDS on women and girls and to stimulate the fight against the disease. It called for enhanced efforts by all relevant actors to include a gender perspective in the development of HIV/AIDS programmes and policies and in the training of personnel involved in their implementation, and requested the Secretary-General to do so when preparing his report on the implementation of the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, adopted by the twenty-sixth

special session of the General Assembly in resolution S-26/2 [YUN 2001, p. 1126].

Traditional practices affecting the health of women and girls

By **decision 2004/276** of 22 July, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the decision of the Commission on Human Rights to renew for a further three years the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on traditional practices affecting the health of women and the girl child (see p. 777).

Women and human rights

Trafficking in women and girls

In July [A/59/185 & Corr.1], the Secretary-General, responding to General Assembly resolution 57/176 [YUN 2002, p. 1146], reported on trafficking in women and girls, focusing on information provided by 41 Member States on their legal and policy measures. He also reported on the activities of the UN system and other organizations to combat trafficking in women and girls, including the adoption by the Commission on Human Rights, at its sixtieth (2004) session, of a resolution on the trafficking in women and girls [E/2004/23 (res. 2004/45)], and a decision establishing the mandate of a new Special Rapporteur for three years to focus on the human rights aspects of trafficking in persons victims, especially women and children [dec. 2004/110] (see p. 778).

The Secretary-General concluded that to successfully combat trafficking, the prosecution of traffickers had to go hand in hand with the protection of the victims. He recommended that States continue to ratify international instruments and conclude agreements to ensure and facilitate the prosecution of offenders, and seek international cooperation for assistance and in the exchange of information on good practices against trafficking; place emphasis on adopting and enforcing anti-trafficking legislation; and address the root causes of trafficking in women. He emphasized that all actors, including judicial and law enforcement personnel, migration authorities, academic institutions, NGOs and civil society groups, should collaborate at the national level in the development and implementation of a comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach to trafficking, and that measures to combat trafficking should be continuously monitored to assess their impact.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 20 December [meeting 74], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/59/496], adopted **resolution 59/166** without vote [agenda item 98].

Trafficking in women and girls

The General Assembly,

Recalling all previous resolutions on the problem of trafficking in women and girls adopted by the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights, including their reaffirmation of the principles set forth in relevant human rights instruments and declarations, as well as the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others,

Welcoming the entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime on 29 September 2003 and of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime on 25 December 2003 and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime on 28 January 2004,

Recalling 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 provisions pertaining to trafficking in women and girls contained in the outcome documents of relevant international conferences and summits, in particular the strategic objective on the issue of trafficking contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,

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

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

Bearing in mind that all States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish perpetrators of trafficking in persons 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,

Seriously concerned that an increasing number of women and girls from developing countries and from some countries with economies in transition are being trafficked to developed countries, as well as within and between regions and States, and that men and boys are also victims of trafficking, including for sexual exploitation,

Recognizing that victims of trafficking are particularly exposed to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and that women and girl victims are often subject to multiple forms of discrimination on the grounds of their gender as well as their origins,

Acknowledging that women and girl victims of trafficking, on account of their gender, are further disadvantaged and marginalized by a general lack of information or awareness and recognition of their human rights, 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 persons, especially women and children,

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

Recognizing further that policies and programmes for prevention, rehabilitation and reintegration should be developed through a child- and gender-sensitive, comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach involving all actors in countries of origin, transit and destination,

Concerned about the 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,

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

Convinced of the need to protect and assist all victims of trafficking, with full respect for their human rights,

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

2. *Welcomes* the efforts of Governments, United Nations bodies and agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to address the particular 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 appointment of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on trafficking in persons, especially women and children;

4. *Urges* Governments to take appropriate measures to address the root factors, including poverty and gender inequality, as well as external factors that encourage the particular problem of trafficking in women and girls for prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex, forced marriage and forced labour, in order to eliminate such trafficking, including by strengthening existing legislation with a view to providing better protection of the rights of women and girls and to punishing 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, including for sexual exploitation, as part of a comprehensive anti-trafficking strategy that integrates a gender and human rights perspective, and to draw up, as appropriate, national action plans in this regard;

6. *Further urges* Governments to consider signing and ratifying and States parties to implement 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, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 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 persons, and to ensure that such agreements and initiatives pay particular attention to the problem of trafficking in women and girls;

8. *Calls upon* all Governments to criminalize all forms of trafficking in persons, recognizing its increasing occurrence for purposes of sexual exploitation and sex tourism, and 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 also 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 strengthen international cooperation aimed at preventing and combating corruption and the laundering of proceeds derived from trafficking, including for purposes of commercialized sexual exploitation;

10. *Also 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;

11. *Encourages* Governments and relevant United Nations bodies, within existing resources, to take appropriate measures to raise public awareness of the issue of trafficking in persons, particularly in women and girls, including to address the demand side of the problem and to publicize the laws, regulations and penalties relating to this issue, and to emphasize that trafficking is a crime, in order to eliminate the demand, including by sex tourists, recognizing that the majority of trafficked victims are women and girls;

12. *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;

13. *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, including for HIV/AIDS, and by taking measures to cooperate with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide for the social, medical and psychological care of the victims;

14. *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;

15. *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;

16. *Calls upon* Governments to take steps to ensure that the treatment of victims of trafficking, as well as all measures taken against trafficking in persons, in particular those that affect the victims of such trafficking, pay particular attention to the needs of women and girls and 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, which may include measures that offer victims the possibility of obtaining compensation for damage suffered;

17. *Invites* Governments to take steps to ensure that criminal justice procedures and witness protection programmes are sensitive to the particular situation of trafficked women and girls and that they are enabled 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 they have access to protection and social, medical, financial and legal assistance, as appropriate;

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

19. *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;

20. *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, including through the dissemination by the media of information regarding the

rights of trafficked persons and services available to victims of trafficking;

21. *Stresses* the need for systematic data collection and comprehensive studies at both the national and the international levels and the development of common methodologies and internationally defined indicators to make it possible to develop relevant and comparable figures, and encourages Governments to enhance information-sharing and data-collection capacity as a way of promoting cooperation to combat the trafficking problem;

22. *Urges* Governments to strengthen national programmes to combat trafficking in persons, especially women and girls, through increased 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;

23. *Invites* Governments, with the support of the United Nations as required, and other intergovernmental organizations, taking into account best practices, to formulate training manuals for law enforcement and medical personnel and judicial officers, with a view to sensitizing them to the special needs of women and girl victims;

24. *Urges* Governments to provide or strengthen training for law enforcement, immigration and other relevant officials in the prevention and combating of trafficking in persons, including the sexual exploitation of women and girls, 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 includes human rights and child- and gender-sensitive perspectives, and to encourage cooperation with non-governmental organizations, other relevant organizations and other elements of civil society;

25. *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;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to compile, as reference and guidance, successful interventions and strategies in addressing the various dimensions of the particular problem of trafficking in women and children, in particular girls, based on reports, research and other materials from within the United Nations, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 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 sixty-first session.

Women in Afghanistan

In response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/43 [YUN 2003, p. 1175], the Secretary-General submitted to the Commission

a report [E/CN.6/2004/5] on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan, which provided information on the political, social and economic developments affecting Afghan women in 2003. It detailed steps taken by the Afghan Transitional Administration (TA), the UN system and other actors to empower women and strengthen their status, particularly women's representation and participation in constitutional and electoral processes. The report revealed that women participated in significant numbers in the public consultations on the draft constitution for Afghanistan. To ensure that their voices were heard, a diverse group of women, meeting in Kahandar in September 2003, issued an Afghan Women's Bill of Rights, calling for the inclusion in the constitution of such rights as the right to education, protection and security, freedom of speech and the right to vote. Women were also represented in the Constitutional Loya Jirga (grand council) convened to draft the constitution. In that regard, a Committee for the Protection of Women's Rights in the Constitution was established to formulate a platform of action for women delegates to the Loya Jirga.

In preparation for the holding of general elections in October (see p. 318), tribal and religious community leaders and Afghan civil society organizations were being mobilized to encourage women to participate in the electoral process. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) electoral component reported that gender issues were fully taken into consideration in the planning of the voter registration exercise. It also developed a 2004 mission implementation plan to integrate gender perspectives throughout all aspects of its work in support of the Afghan Government's development policies and strategies. The Afghan Ministry of Education, with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), launched the Back-to-School campaign, which resulted in 4.2 million children being enrolled in schools, while the World Food Programme provided school feeding as an incentive to encourage girls' enrolment. Other areas addressed in the report included women's human rights and violence against women; disarmament and reintegration; return of refugees and displaced persons; narcotics trade; mine action; health; and employment. The Secretary-General made a number of recommendations to the TA and future Government, the UN system, donors and civil society to further strengthen the status of women and girls in Afghanistan and their full participation in the reconstruction and development of their country (see also p. 777).

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 21 July [meeting 47], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women [E/2004/27], adopted **resolution 2004/10** 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 involvement 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 Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto, the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,

Reaffirming that all States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recalling the importance of the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000, on women and peace and security and 1460(2003) of 30 January 2003, on children and armed conflict, and in this context recalling also the Security Council mission to Afghanistan from 31 October to 7 November 2003, which reviewed, inter alia, the humanitarian and human rights situation of women,

Welcoming the entry into force on 26 January 2004 of a new Constitution following the successful outcome of the Constitutional Loya Jirga, in which women played a prominent and crucial role, and also welcoming, in particular, the provisions of the new Constitution which state that the citizens of Afghanistan, whether men or women, are equal before the law, and guarantee the right of women to serve in the National Assembly,

Welcoming also the continuing commitment of the Transitional Administration of Afghanistan to the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls, the restoration of the active participation of Afghan women in political, economic and social life, the education of girls as well as boys and the opportunity for women to work outside the home,

Welcoming further the fact that the Back-to-School campaign launched by the Ministry of Education and the United Nations Children's Fund has been a major success and that 4.2 million children are now enrolled in school, while recognizing the need for the enrolment rate of girls in school to improve considerably,

Welcoming the inclusion of women in the Transitional Administration, the Judicial Reform Commission, the Independent Human Rights Commission, the Constitutional Commission and the Secretariat of the Constitutional 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 also the fact that the National Development Framework of the Transitional Administration 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, and welcoming in this regard the assistance provided by the international community to achieve these goals,

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

Recognizing that, in spite of recent improvements, women in Afghanistan continue to face serious violations of their rights in many parts of the country, in particular in rural areas,

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

Strongly 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:*

(a) The ongoing commitments made by the Transitional Administration of Afghanistan to recognize, protect and promote all human rights and fundamental freedoms and to respect and promote respect for international humanitarian law;

(b) The provisions of the new Constitution which state that the citizens of Afghanistan, whether men or women, are equal before the law and that at least two women are to be elected to the Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament) from each province, as a national average, and which provide for half of the President's nominees to the Meshrano Jirga (Upper House of Parliament) to be women;

(c) The ongoing security sector reform processes being undertaken by the Transitional Administration with the support of the international community, including the demobilization, disarmament and reintegration of former combatants and the recruitment of a new cadre of women police;

2. *Also welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on the Status of Women;

3. *Urges* the Transitional Administration and future Government:

(a) To ensure that the provisions of the new Constitution are implemented fully and that any legislative, administrative and other measures support the full en-

joyment by women and girls of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including by mainstreaming gender issues into the activities of all Transitional Administration ministries;

(b) 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;

(c) To protect the right to freedom of movement, expression and association for women and girls;

(d) To implement fully its obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and prepare the initial report due in March 2004 and to raise awareness and strengthen the knowledge of women and girls and their families about their rights, including the full enjoyment of all human rights by women and girls;

(e) To ensure that the electoral processes, including those in 2004, are carried out and monitored closely to make certain that women are able to register and participate fully, and to support special measures that would guarantee that they are represented in local, provincial and national government positions;

(f) To ensure that the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Independent Human Rights Commission and the permanent Afghan judicial institutions have adequate human and financial resources to fulfil their mandates and address gender perspectives in line with international standards;

(g) To continue its efforts to re-establish the rule of law, in accordance with international standards, inter alia, by ensuring that law enforcement agencies respect and uphold human rights and fundamental freedoms, with a particular emphasis on access to justice for women;

(h) To continue its efforts to reflect a gender perspective in the training and activities of its police, army, prosecutors and judiciary and to promote the recruitment of Afghan women in all ranks;

(i) To review and improve the practices of law enforcement personnel when dealing with women victims of violence, including domestic and sexual violence, and trafficking, in particular those accused of offences based on tradition or imprisoned for social reasons;

(j) To strengthen efforts, including through legislative measures, to prevent and eliminate violence against women, including domestic and sexual violence and trafficking, inter alia, by raising awareness of the need to prevent and eliminate violence against women, with the aim of changing the attitudes and behaviour that allow such crimes to take place;

(k) To ensure that gender-sensitive approaches are applied in the development and application of procedures during data collection for the census and the registration of voters to deliver universal suffrage and the full participation of women in the national elections in 2004;

(l) To ensure the equal rights of women and girls to education, the effective functioning of schools throughout the country and the admission of women and girls to all levels of education, in a safe and secure environment, and to support the educational needs of those women and girls who were excluded from education in the past;

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

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

(o) To continue demobilization and disarmament and facilitate the reintegration into society and work of women and girls who have been affected by war;

(p) To ensure the effective and equal access of women and girls, on the basis of equality among all Afghans, to the facilities necessary to protect the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, in accordance with the obligations of Afghanistan under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

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

(r) To consider implementing gender budgeting in the national budget and in all budgets of ministries;

(s) To ensure that Afghan women are well represented at international conferences and that during the Berlin Conference adequate attention is given to issues relating to the rights of women and girls;

(t) To support measures to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls, to hold accountable those who were responsible for gross violations of human rights in the past and to ensure that full investigations are conducted and the perpetrators brought to justice, in accordance with international standards, in order to combat impunity;

4. *Encourages* the continuing efforts of the United Nations and its agencies, donors and civil society, guided by Security Council resolution 1325(2000):

(a) To provide financial and technical assistance, including support to the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Independent Human Rights Commission, to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls so as to strengthen the capacity of Afghan women to participate fully and effectively in conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts and in civil, political, economic, cultural and social life;

(b) To support fully the Transitional Administration regarding the participation of women in society, inter alia, by providing support to ministries to develop their capacity to mainstream gender issues into their programmes;

(c) To support capacity-building for Afghan women to enable them to participate fully in all sectors, with special emphasis on ensuring the participation and representation of women in all aspects of the 2004 electoral process;

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

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

(a) To ensure a human rights-based approach and coherent policy and resources for gender mainstreaming in all programmes and operations, based on

the principles of non-discrimination and equality between women and men, and to ensure that women benefit equally with men from such programmes in all sectors;

(b) 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;

(c) To support the elements of civil society active in the field of human rights and encourage the involvement of women therein;

(d) To ensure that all their international and national personnel, prior to beginning their service, receive training in gender equality, as well as appropriate training in the history, culture and traditions of Afghanistan, and are fully familiar with and guided by international human rights standards;

(e) To integrate efforts to improve the health status of women into all reconstruction efforts, especially through access to skilled prenatal care, increased access to skilled birth attendance, education programmes on basic health issues, community information activities and emergency obstetric care;

(f) To continue to support measures for the employment of women and the integration of a gender perspective into all social, development and reconstruction programmes, taking into account the special needs of widows and returning refugee and displaced women and girls, as well as those living in rural areas;

6. *Strongly urges* the Secretary-General to ensure that the important post of Senior Gender Adviser in the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan is filled immediately and with due regard to the need for continuity in this task;

7. *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-ninth session a report on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

Palestinian women

In response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/42 [YUN 2003, p. 494], a report of the Secretary-General [E/CN.6/2004/4] summarized the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women during the period from September 2002 to September 2003 (see p. 483). It indicated that living conditions had drastically declined and recommended that UN entities continue to operate in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and refugee camps. Further opportunities should be sought to highlight the ways in which the crisis impacted on women as compared to men so that targeted actions could be taken to mitigate the gender-specific impacts.

On 23 July, the Economic and Social Council, in **resolution 2004/56**, took action on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (see p. 484).

Women and development

World survey and international migration

The Commission considered a note [E/CN.6/2004/CRP.4] by the Secretary-General, which responded to the General Assembly's request in resolution 54/210 [YUN 1999, p. 1097] for an update to the *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development* for consideration at its fifty-ninth (2004) session. The Secretary-General indicated that the *Survey* would address the increased movement of people, particularly women, within and across national borders, from a gender perspective.

Report of Secretary-General. Responding to General Assembly resolution 58/206 [YUN 2003, p. 1178], the Secretary-General submitted to the Assembly, in September, the *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development: Women and International Migration* [A/59/287/Add.1], together with an August summary of the key elements contained therein [A/59/287]. The *Survey* focused on women and international migration and presented key issues on labour migration; family formation and reunification; rights of migrant women, refugees and displaced persons; and trafficking in women and girls. The *Survey* revealed that, as at 2000, 49 per cent of all international migrants were women or girls and the proportion of females among international migrants had reached 51 per cent in more developed regions. Refugee women and girls faced particular problems regarding their legal and physical protection; an increasing area of concern was the trafficking of people, especially women, for prostitution and forced labour. International migration affected gender roles and opportunities for women in destination countries, and some countries had laws that particularly disadvantaged women migrants and native spouses of male migrants. The *Survey* concluded that the mobility of women affected the roles of both female and male migrants, the families left behind in the migration process and societies in the source and destination countries of migrants. Migration of women within and from developing countries affected the development process in those countries and also raised challenges to immigration and refugee policies. The *Survey* set out recommendations for improving the situation of migrant, refugee and trafficked women, including the ratification and implementation of all international legal instruments that protected the rights of migrant women and girls; review of national emigration and immigration laws and policies to identify discriminatory provisions that undermined the rights of migrant women; development of policies that enhanced employment

opportunities, access to safe housing, education, language training in the host country, health care and other services; education and communication programmes to inform migrant women of their rights and responsibilities; and research and data collection that improved understanding of the causes of female migration and its impact on women, their countries of origin and their countries of destination to provide a basis for the formulation of appropriate policies and programmes.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee [A/59/487/Add.2], adopted **resolution 59/248**, without vote [agenda item 89 (b)].

World Survey on the role of women in development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 54/210 of 22 December 1999 and 58/206 of 23 December 2003 and all its other resolutions on the integration of women in development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "World Survey on the Role of Women in Development", which focuses on women and international migration, and decides to consider the report at its sixtieth session under the sub-item entitled "Women in development";

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to update the *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development* for the consideration of the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, noting that the survey should continue to focus on selected emerging development themes that have an impact on the role of women in the economy at the national, regional and international levels, to be identified at its sixtieth session.

Eradication of poverty

Communication. A letter [E/CN.6/2004/12] from the President of the Economic and Social Council informed the Commission on the Status of Women of the themes for the Council's 2004 high-level segment (Resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) for the Decade 2001-2010 [YUN 2001, p. 771]) and coordination segment (Review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of the Council's agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming gender perspective into all programmes and policies of the United Nations (see p. 1427) and Coordinated and integrated UN system approach to promote rural development in developing countries, with due consideration for least developed countries, for poverty eradication and sustainable development (see p. 827)). The Council President requested the Commis-

sion's early consideration of the themes to ensure that the Commission's concerns were fully reflected in the Council's work. A Secretariat note [E/CN.6/2004/CRP.6], which discussed gender-equality and poverty eradication in least developed countries and gender-responsive poverty eradication, including poverty and rural women, creating an enabling environment for poverty eradication and mobilization of domestic and international resources, was submitted to assist the Commission should it consider providing input to the high-level segment.

Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women

Inter-Agency Network. The United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE), at its third session (New York, 23-26 February) [IANWGE/2004/REPORT], endorsed decisions and recommendations made by task forces and working groups regarding gender and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); gender and information and communication technologies; women, peace and security; mainstreaming a gender perspective in development programming processes; gender mainstreaming in programme budgets; database activities, including WomenWatch, an Internet portal to UN gender sources; gender and trade; gender and water; the ten-year review of the Beijing Platform of Action; new task forces; and the review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of Economic and Social Council Agreed Conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all UN system policies and programmes. The Network established new task forces on indigenous women and on gender mainstreaming in evaluation, monitoring and programme reporting. It also held a workshop on mainstreaming a gender perspective in evaluation, monitoring and programme reporting. Network members selected "Women and HIV/AIDS" as the theme for International Women's Day, celebrated on 8 March.

Report of Secretary-General. In January, pursuant to Commission resolution 47/2 [YUN 2003, p. 1188], the Secretary-General submitted a report [E/CN.6/2004/3] on measures taken and progress achieved in the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women in mainstreaming a gender perspective in entities of the UN system, which was based on an analysis of inputs received from UN entities and the findings of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality. The Secretary-General concluded that, although policies and strategies were in place in many entities

and there had been increased focus on the development of training, methodologies and tools, a large gap remained between policy and practice. Constraints to full implementation of gender mainstreaming included inadequate support for and follow-up to gender equality policies and strategies; poor utilization of gender analysis; inadequate monitoring mechanisms, including indicators for assessing progress; and institutional constraints, such as the lack of competence and poor accountability. He added that considerable work remained to be done on developing awareness, commitment and capacity among UN staff, as the existence of policies and strategies had not always led to the desired change in attitudes or practices and methodologies. Resources were also not being utilized to the fullest extent. Increased explicit support from senior management levels in clarifying responsibilities demanding accountability and providing support would be critical for moving forward. The report also provided further measures the Commission might wish to recommend to enhance implementation and impact of the gender mainstreaming strategy.

Commission on Status of Women. In March [E/2004/27 (res. 48/4)], the Commission invited the UN system to link gender equality policies to organizational goals, develop and strengthen strategies and action plans and assess the impact of such policies and strategies to identify constraints to their full implementation. It recommended that the Economic and Social Council incorporate an assessment of the remaining gaps in the frameworks for gender equality policies and strategies in its review and appraisal of the implementation of its agreed conclusions 1997/2. The Secretary-General should include an assessment of the implementation of the Commission's resolution in his report on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women at the Commission's forty-ninth (2005) session.

Further report of Secretary-General. In response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/49 [YUN 2003, p. 1188], the Secretary-General, in a May report [E/2004/59] on the review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of the Council's agreed conclusions 1997/2, provided an analysis and highlighted continuing gaps in and challenges to mainstreaming gender perspectives in UN system policies and programmes and at the intergovernmental level. The report concluded that the agreed conclusions remained a valid framework for gender mainstreaming in the United Nations and that progress made in mainstreaming gender perspectives at the intergovernmental level had had an important impact on efforts throughout the

UN system. However, initiatives needed to be taken at all levels to increase the active and visible use of gender mainstreaming as a complement to women-focused strategies, in addition to increased inter-agency collaboration, particularly at operational levels. Recommendations to the Council included encouraging UN entities to establish gender equality policy frameworks linked to overall organizational policies and regularly assessing their impact; fully incorporating gender perspectives in all reports prepared for inter-governmental bodies, including the Security Council, its functional commissions, and the General Assembly; and increasing awareness of the responsibilities of all staff for gender mainstreaming, including senior management, and developing effective accountability mechanisms. In addition to Council suggestions to the Commission on the Status of Women, the Assembly, the Security Council, IANWGE and governing bodies of agencies, funds and programmes, the report recommended that the Economic and Social Council establish gender mainstreaming as a regular agenda item in meetings of its bureau with those of its functional commissions.

UNDP consideration. The United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund (UNDP/UNFPA) Executive Board requested UNDP to prepare a detailed plan of action on gender mainstreaming for review in 2005 [E/2004/35 (dec. 2004/21)] (see p. 883). It also requested that the UNDP organizational scorecard on gender balance be presented at that time [ibid., (dec. 2004/22)] (see p. 884), and that UNDP submit, in 2005, more detailed information on specific gender indicators, and an update on the progress achieved in the partnership between UNDP and UNIFEM [ibid., (dec. 2004/38)] (see p. 883).

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 7 July [meeting 27], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2004/4** [draft: E/2004/L.14] without vote [agenda item 4 (a)].

Review of Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its agreed conclusions 1997/2 of 18 July 1997 on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, and its decision 2003/287 of 24 July 2003, in which it decided to undertake, during the coordination segment of its substantive session of 2004, a review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of the agreed conclusions,

Recalling also its resolution 2001/41 of 26 July 2001, in which it decided to establish a regular sub-item entitled "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system",

as well as its resolutions 2002/23 of 24 July 2002 and 2003/49 of 24 July 2003,

Reaffirms that gender mainstreaming constitutes a major strategy for the full implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, as a complement to strategies for the empowerment of women,

Underlines the catalytic role played by the Commission on the Status of Women, as well as the important role played by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, in promoting and monitoring gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system,

1. *Reaffirms* its agreed conclusions 1997/2 as a valid framework for promoting and monitoring the implementation of gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system;

2. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system;

3. *Notes with appreciation* the progress made by the United Nations in mainstreaming gender perspectives into policies and programmes since 1997, including the ongoing activities of and efforts made by the entities of the United Nations system, both individually and through inter-agency cooperation;

4. *Recognizes* that mainstreaming the gender perspective into all aspects of the work of the United Nations is an ongoing process and that further concrete steps are required, as a matter of urgency, to ensure full implementation of agreed conclusions 1997/2;

5. *Recommends* that the General Assembly encourage its committees and other intergovernmental bodies to take further measures to integrate systematically gender perspectives into all areas of their work, including the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of major United Nations summits and conferences, and in particular the 2005 high-level event planned in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 58/291 of 6 May 2004;

6. *Reaffirms its commitment* to ensuring systematic attention to gender perspectives in all aspects of its work;

7. *Encourages* the governing bodies of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to ensure that gender perspectives are integrated into all aspects of their monitoring functions in relation to policies and strategies, medium-term plans, multi-year funding frameworks and operational activities, including those relating to the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields;

8. *Calls upon* its functional commissions to take further measures to incorporate recommendations on their areas of work provided by the Commission on the Status of Women and fully to integrate gender perspectives into their work, including through their annual or multi-year programmes of work and in the integrated and coordinated follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, and, to that end, requests its Bureau to strengthen further the regular dia-

logue with the bureaux of the functional commissions on the issue of gender mainstreaming;

9. *Requests* all entities of the United Nations system to enhance the effectiveness of gender specialist resources, gender focal points and gender theme groups by establishing clear mandates, by ensuring adequate training and access to information and to adequate and stable resources, and by increasing the support and participation of senior staff;

10. *Encourages* the Commission on the Status of Women to continue its catalytic role in relation to United Nations entities and intergovernmental bodies and to provide further practical guidance on gender mainstreaming;

11. *Requests* all entities of the United Nations system, including funds and programmes, fully to incorporate gender perspectives in their programmes and operational activities and to ensure, within their mandates, systematic integration of reporting on their efforts in mainstreaming gender into existing evaluation and monitoring processes within the United Nations system, including those relating to the development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration;

12. *Recommends* that all entities of the United Nations system continue to promote cooperation, coordination, sharing of methodologies and good practices, including through the development of tools and effective processes for monitoring and evaluation within the United Nations, in the implementation of agreed conclusions 1997/2, in particular through the Inter-agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, and recommends further that all inter-agency mechanisms pay attention to gender perspectives in their work;

13. *Takes note* of work already undertaken to implement General Assembly resolution 58/144 of 22 December 2003, and urges continued efforts towards its full implementation;

14. *Also takes note* of work already undertaken to implement Security Council resolution 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000 on women and peace and security, and urges continued efforts towards its full implementation;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all entities of the United Nations system develop action plans with time lines for implementing agreed conclusions 1997/2 which address the gap between policy and practice identified in the report of the Secretary-General, with a view to strengthening commitment and accountability at the highest levels within the United Nations system as well as to establishing mechanisms to ensure accountability, systematic monitoring and reporting on progress in implementation;

16. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the implementation of agreed conclusions 1997/2 within the framework of his annual reports to the Commission on the Status of Women, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on the follow-up to and progress made in the implementation by United Nations entities and intergovernmental bodies of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, with a particular focus on bridging the gap between policies and practice on the basis of gender mainstreaming action plans;

17. *Decides* to undertake a further review and appraisal of the implementation of its agreed conclusions 1997/2 at a future session before 2010.

By **decision 2004/317** of 23 July, the Council also took note of the Secretary-General's report on the review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of the Economic and Social Council's agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations (see p. 1166).

Status of women in the United Nations

In response to General Assembly resolution 58/144 [YUN 2003, p. 1449], the Secretary-General presented a report [A/59/357] on progress made in the representation of women within the UN system as at 31 December 2003 and in the UN Secretariat from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 (see p. 1428).

In **resolution 59/164** of 22 December (see p. 1429), the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide a verbal update to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-ninth (2005) and fiftieth (2006) sessions and to report to the Assembly at its sixty-first (2006) session.

UN machinery

Convention on the elimination of discrimination against women

As at 31 December 2004, 179 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, Kiribati, the Federated States of Micronesia, Swaziland and the United Arab Emirates acceded to it. At year's end, 45 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, 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] and which entered into force in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 1123], had 70 States parties by year's end.

Meeting of States parties. The thirteenth meeting of States parties to the Convention (New York, 5 August) [CEDAW/SP/2004/4] elected 11

CEDAW members to replace those members whose terms were to expire on 31 December 2004. The newly elected members would serve from 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2007. The meeting had before it a June document [CEDAW/SP/2004/2] containing declarations, reservations, objections and notifications of withdrawal of reservations relating to the Convention.

CEDAW

In 2004, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), established in 1982 [YUN 1982, p. 1149] to monitor compliance with the 1979 Convention, held two regular sessions in New York [A/59/38].

At its thirtieth session (12-30 January), CEDAW reviewed the initial/periodic reports of Belarus, Bhutan, Ethiopia, Germany, Kyrgyzstan, Kuwait, Nigeria and Nepal on measures they had taken to implement the Convention. CEDAW considered a Secretariat report on ways and means of expediting its work [CEDAW/C/2004/I/4] and notes by the Secretariat on an overview of the current working methods of the Committee [CEDAW/C/2004/I/4 & Add.1] and on enhancing the working methods of the Committee under article 18 of the Convention [CEDAW/C/2004/I/4 & Add.2]. By three decisions, CEDAW adopted general recommendation 25 on article 4, paragraph 1 of the Convention, on temporary special measures [A/59/38 (dec. 30/D)]; decided to mark the twenty-fifth (2004) anniversary of the adoption of the Convention with an event at the fifty-ninth (2004) session of the General Assembly [*ibid.*, (dec. 30/II)]; and adopted a statement on the situation of women in Iraq [*ibid.*, (dec. 30/III)], which was annexed to the report. In other action, the Committee took note of the report and decisions of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol, in respect of issues arising from article 2, and continued its work under article 8 of the Optional Protocol.

At its thirty-first session (6-23 July), CEDAW reviewed the initial or periodic reports of Angola, Argentina, Bangladesh, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Latvia, Malta and Spain. It also considered the report on ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee [CEDAW/C/2004/II/4] and the reports of specialized agencies [CEDAW/C/2004/II/3 & Add.1-4] on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activity. The Committee requested the General Assembly to authorize the Committee to meet for an additional week at its thirty-third, thirty-fourth and thirty-fifth sessions (July 2005 and January and July 2006) and to hold three annual sessions of three weeks each, with a one-week pre-session working group for

each session, effective January 2007 [A/59/38 (dec. 31/I)]. The Committee also adopted a statement on the situation of women in Iraq [ibid., (dec. 31/II)] and measures to further enhance and strengthen its working methods [ibid., (dec. 31/III)]. In a summary of Committee activities concerning the inquiry of allegations of abduction, rape and murder of women in the Ciudad Juarez area of Chihuahua, Mexico, the Committee noted that it would consider follow-up measures taken by the Government at its thirty-second (2005) session and issue a summary of its findings and recommendations and the Government's response at a future date.

By **decision 59/524** of 20 December, the General Assembly took note of the report of CEDAW on the work of its thirtieth and thirty-first sessions.

Commission on the Status of Women

The Commission on the Status of Women, at its forty-eighth session (New York, 1-12 March) [E/2004/27], recommended four draft resolutions to the Economic and Social Council for adoption on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan (see p. 1162) and the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (see p. 484), and its agreed conclusions on the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality (see p. 1157) and on women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and resolution and in post-conflict peace-building (see p. 1154). It also recommended a draft decision for Council adoption on the report of the Commission's forty-eighth (2004) session and the provisional agenda for its forty-ninth (2005) session (see below). The Commission adopted and brought to the Council's attention resolutions on the revitalization and strengthening of INSTRAW (see p. 1173); the release of women and children taken hostage in armed conflict (see p. 1156); women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS (see p. 1159); mainstreaming a gender perspective in all UN system policies and programmes (see p. 1166); and preparations for its forty-ninth (2005) session (see p. 1171). The Commission adopted three decisions, which were brought to the Council's attention, regarding its working methods [dec. 48/101] (see below); the future work of the Working Group on Communications [dec. 48/103] (see below); and documents before the Commission under agenda item 3 on women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building [dec. 48/102].

By **decision 2004/239** of 21 July, the Economic and Social Council took note of the Commis-

sion's report on its forty-eighth session and approved the provisional agenda for its forty-ninth (2005) session.

Review of working methods

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 57/270 B [YUN 2003, p. 1468], the Secretary-General submitted a January report [E/CN.6/2004/2] on the review of the working methods of the Commission on the Status of Women in the context of integrated and coordinated implementation of, and follow-up to, the outcomes of major UN conferences and summits in the economic and social fields. The Secretary-General recommended that the Commission ensure that the outcomes of its examination of thematic issues contained policy developments and recommendations for action; developed ways to effectively incorporate emerging issues into future multi-year work programmes; strengthened linkages with other functional commissions; increased the contributions of the regional commissions in the work of the Commission; encouraged increased involvement by the entities of the UN system and further participation of all stakeholders in expert panel and round-table discussions; and found innovative means of supporting and monitoring gender mainstreaming.

Communications on the status of women

Report of Secretary-General. As requested by the Commission at its forty-seventh session [YUN 2003, p. 1193], the Secretary-General transmitted a report [E/CN.6/2004/11 & Add.1,2] on the future work 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 report was based on preliminary discussions held at that session and the written views of Member States. The issues raised related to the criteria for inclusion of communications, their volume and sources and continuity of the term of membership of the Working Group. Among the recommendations made were that the Commission elaborate criteria for screening out communications that fell outside the scope of the procedure and criteria for selecting communications; expand and specify the sources of communications; and extend the term of members of the Working Group to two or more years and stagger the nominations.

Working Group. At two meetings in March [E/2004/27], including one closed meeting, the Commission considered the report of the Work-

ing Group. The Working Group considered 15 confidential communications received directly by the Division for the Advancement of Women and seven confidential communications received by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). No non-confidential communications were received. The Group noted that one communication that had been selected from the 1503 procedure material had also been submitted directly to the Division. The Working Group noted that Governments had replied to five of the 15 communications received by the Division and to six of the seven transmitted by OHCHR. The Group ascertained that communications were most frequently submitted on discriminatory application of punishments in law based on sex, including corporal and capital punishment; sexual violence and threats of sexual violence against women; violations of the rights of female human rights defenders and women participating in political life; violations of the rights of women belonging to ethnic or religious minorities, particularly the widespread use of rape, involving extreme brutality, and discrimination against such women, for example, in relation to access to health care; violations of women's human rights during armed conflict, including multiple rapes, sexual mutilation, sexual slavery, and forced pregnancies and abortions; acid attacks against women stemming from rejected offers of marriage and dowry and property disputes; violence, degrading treatment and discrimination based on religious beliefs against women prisoners committed by guards; violations of human rights of migrant women and trafficked women; and denial of visitation rights (visas) and humiliating treatment of spouses of foreign male inmates. The Working Group was concerned about the application under law of certain forms of criminal punishment of women that constituted cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment; the application of criminal punishment based on sex, where only women were punished for certain crimes or sentenced to harsher punishments than men committing the same crime; lack of due diligence in investigating and prosecuting violence, including rape, against migrant women and women victims of trafficking; and the impunity and inadequate punishment of the perpetrators of such violence or those involved in trafficking.

In a March decision [E/2004/27 (dec. 48/103)], the Commission decided to postpone until its fiftieth (2006) session further consideration of the Secretary-General's report on the future work of the Working Group, and the views and proposals put forward by Member States.

Participation of NGOs in the Commission's forty-ninth session

Economic and Social Council consideration.

On 23 July, the Economic and Social Council considered a draft resolution [E/2004/L.51] on participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the forty-ninth (2005) session of the Commission. The Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the European Union, emphasized the valuable contribution of civil society and NGOs to the outcomes of major UN conferences and summits and requested that the draft resolution address the possibility of accrediting additional NGOs to the Commission's 2005 session.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 23 July [meeting 51], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2004/57** [draft: E/2004/L.51] without vote [agenda item 14 (a)].

Participation of non-governmental organizations in the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women

The Economic and Social Council,

Underlining the significance of the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, to be held in 2005, which will mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and the thirtieth anniversary of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, held in Mexico City from 19 June to 2 July 1975,

Noting that the Commission on the Status of Women will undertake, at its forty-ninth session, a review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", and will consider current challenges and forward-looking strategies for the advancement and empowerment of women and girls,

1. *Decides*, on an exceptional basis, to invite those non-governmental organizations that were accredited to the Fourth World Conference on Women or to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly to attend the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women;

2. *Urges* that, in recognition of the importance of equitable geographical participation of non-governmental organizations in the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, relevant bodies of the United Nations system assist those non-governmental organizations that do not have resources, in particular non-governmental organizations from developing countries, including the least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, to participate in the forty-ninth session of the Commission.

UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)

In January [E/2004/35 (dec. 2004/10)], the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund (UNDP/UNFPA) endorsed the strategic direction and priorities of the UNIFEM multi-year funding framework (MYFF), 2004-2007 [DP/2004/5 & Corr.1] and approved the 2004-2007 integrated resources framework contained therein. It requested UNIFEM, in collaboration with UNDP/UNFPA, and in consultation with Member States, to explore options for harmonized reporting of the results of its implementation and to report on the issue at the Board's annual session in 2004. In June [ibid., (dec. 2004/20)], the Board adopted the joint UNDP/UNFPA/UNIFEM proposal [DP/2004/4] for reporting on the multi-year funding framework.

UNIFEM activities. In 2004 [A/60/274], UNIFEM focused on the implementation of the first year of the 2004-2007 MYFF, which contained a strategic results framework highlighting four key UNIFEM goals: reducing feminized poverty and exclusion; ending violence against women; halting and reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS; and achieving gender equality in democratic governance and in post-conflict countries. Reports from the first year of implementation of the 2004-2007 MYFF reflected 41 instances in which UNIFEM contributed to strengthening policies and laws to enhance the empowerment and rights of women; 77 instances in which it contributed to strengthening the capacity of key institutions to deliver on commitments to gender equality; 64 instances in which it expanded the capacity of governmental and non-governmental organizations and networks to advocate for gender equality; and 16 instances in which it contributed to reversing harmful practices that discriminated against women and girls.

UNIFEM efforts to achieve its performance goals resulted in support of programmes in 43 countries and the provision of technical advice and/or catalytic funding in 40 others; coordination of gender theme groups in 11 countries; input into the MDG processes in 20 countries; participation in common country assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework processes and in the UN response to the Indian Ocean tsunami in December (see p. 952); establishment of UNIFEM as the chair of the United Nations Development Group task force on gender equality; enhanced cooperation with UNDP, UNAIDS, UNICEF and UNFPA; and revised guidelines on the operational relationship between UNDP and UNIFEM, signed by both parties

on 7 June (see p. 883). Other UNIFEM activities included the convening in September of the first conference on "Gender Justice in Post-Conflict Situations", in collaboration with the International Legal Assistance Consortium and an independent assessment of UNIFEM [A/60/62-E/2005/10] commissioned by the Consultative Committee, which highlighted opportunities lost due to the failure to strengthen its positioning and resources.

In 2004, UNIFEM resources totaled \$50.3 million, an increase of \$14 million over the 2003 figure, of which \$23.2 million was in core resources and \$25.5 million in non-core resources.

By **decision 59/540** of 22 December, the General Assembly took note of the report [A/59/135] on UNIFEM's 2003 activities [YUN 2003, p. 1193], transmitted by the Secretary-General in July.

International Research and Training Institute (INSTRAW)

A May report of the Director of INSTRAW [E/2004/66], submitted in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/57 [YUN 2003, p. 1195], covered the Institute's activities for the period from December 2003 to May 2004. The report dealt with developments related to the Institute's institutional structure in line with Council resolution 2003/57, including the election of the members of the new Executive Board; development of a strategic plan for 2004-2007 to be presented to the Executive Board at its first session for approval; convening of a meeting (11 March) for donors and other interested parties; publication of a paper on "overcoming the gender digital divide"; and the reinstatement of the Institute's internship programme.

Commission on Status of Women. In a March resolution [E/2004/27 (res. 48/1)] on the revitalization and strengthening of INSTRAW, the Commission on the Status of Women welcomed the appointment by the Secretary-General of the Director of the Institute on 4 December 2003 and noted his plan to develop a targeted work programme and funding activities. It invited voluntary contributions by Member States to the United Nations Trust Fund for INSTRAW. The Commission encouraged efforts to revitalize INSTRAW and monitor its progress during its forty-ninth (2005) session.

Note of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 57/311 [YUN 2003, p. 1200], the Secretary-General transmitted a November report [A/59/560] of the Director of INSTRAW on its work programme and on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight

Services (OIOS) on the audit of INSTRAW [YUN 2002, p. 1165]. The report indicated that the INSTRAW Executive Board, at its first session on 27 July, approved the 2004-2007 strategic framework, which identified four strategic areas of work: research; information and communication; capacity-building/training; and institutional development. At the resumed session on 1 October, the Board approved the 2005 programme of work, which encompassed both core and project activities and contained the financial requirements for the Institute's operations. However, the Board pointed out that there were no resources in the INSTRAW Trust Fund to finance those requirements. INSTRAW developed 16 project profiles, totalling \$7.7 million, which it had submitted to several financial partners for funding.

The report also detailed measures taken by the Institute to implement OIOS recommendations, including the revision of INSTRAW's statute; replacement of the Board of Trustees by an Executive Board; redesign of the Institute's website; and development of a draft strategic framework and portfolio of projects for consideration by donors.

Future of INSTRAW

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 58/244 [YUN 2003, p. 1199] and Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/57 [ibid., p. 1195], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/59/313] on the future operation of INSTRAW. As part of the revitalization process, INSTRAW had undertaken several important initiatives, including the launching of a redesigned website, strengthening cooperative arrangements with UN entities, expanding its research programme, intensifying its fund-raising campaign and enhancing communications with Governments, civil society, academia and the private sector. With the preparation of the programme of work, the related budget and portfolio of projects, the first phase of the revitalization of the Institute would be completed. However, full implementation of the revitalization process depended on the support of Governments, including making available the financial resources for the operation of the Institute.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 23 December [meeting 76], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/59/496], adopted **resolution 59/260**, by a recorded vote of 125 to 10, with 30 abstentions [agenda item 98].

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

The General Assembly,

Recalling all of its previous resolutions on the situation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, in particular resolutions 55/219 of 23 December 2000, 56/125 of 19 December 2001, 57/175 of 18 December 2002 and 58/244 of 23 December 2003,

Reaffirming its resolution 57/311 of 18 June 2003 on the financial situation of the Institute,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/57 of 24 July 2003, in which the Council decided to amend articles III and IV of the statute of the Institute,

Welcoming the constitution of the Executive Board of the Institute, in particular the important results of its first session, held on 27 July 2004, and its resumed first session, held on 1 October 2004,

Welcoming also the adoption by the Executive Board of the framework of the strategic plan for the Institute, 2004-2007,

Bearing in mind the recommendation made by the Executive Board at its resumed first session that the report of the Director of the Institute, the proposed operational budget for 2005 and other relevant documents be submitted to the General Assembly,

Taking note with appreciation of a number of important strategic initiatives, including the redesign of the web site of the Institute, the strengthening of cooperative arrangements with entities of the United Nations system, the expansion of the research programme of the Institute, the intensification of its fund-raising campaign, the enhancement of communications with governmental agencies, civil society, academia and the private sector, and the strengthening of the training, capacity-building and outreach activities undertaken by the Institute,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;

2. *Welcomes also* the fact that the first phase of the revitalization process has been completed with the preparation of the programme of work, portfolio of projects and related budget of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, as noted by the Secretary-General in his report, and decides that all of its projects should be fully implemented in order to strengthen the Institute, thus enabling it to carry out effectively its mandate, in particular to address the challenges facing women in developing and least developed countries in all regions;

3. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the programme of work and strategic plan for the Institute will contribute to the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

4. *Requests* the Institute, in accordance with its mandate, to actively participate in and contribute to the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly in the context of the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women;

5. *Also requests* that the Institute, in the formulation of future programmes and projects, take into account

the particular challenges facing women in developing and least developed countries in the different regions;

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 this critical transitional period;

8. *Decides* to provide its full support to the current efforts to revitalize the Institute and, in this regard, to ensure that the Institute will be able to continue functioning for a period of at least one year;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

In favour: Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Fiji, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Japan, Latvia, New Zealand, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

By **decision 2004/317** of 23 December, the Council also took note of the Secretary-General's note transmitting the report of the INSTRAW Director on the revitalization and strengthening of the Institute (see p. 1172).

Financial situation

Report of Secretary-General. In an October report [A/59/433] on the financial situation of INSTRAW, the Secretary-General indicated that, because of additional voluntary contributions received in December 2003 and lower than anticipated expenses in November-December 2003, the available balance of the INSTRAW Trust Fund as at 31 December 2003 amounted to \$843,417. For the period 1 January to 30 September 2004, \$109,100 in additional income was received in the

Trust Fund, comprising \$101,706 in voluntary contributions and \$7,394 in miscellaneous income. As the Fund balance as at 30 September was estimated at \$314,420 and anticipated expenditures for October-December at \$290,703, it was determined that the Institute would have adequate resources to function until the end of 2004, with a projected closing balance of \$23,717. Core requirements for the 2005 budget were estimated at \$1,183,760. However, funds had neither been pledged nor received to finance operations in 2005. The Secretary-General concluded that, under the circumstances, the General Assembly would need to consider the future viability of the Institute.

Communication. On 4 October [A/C.3/59/2], Spain, on behalf of the Executive Board of INSTRAW, informed the General Assembly that the Institute's Trust Fund did not contain sufficient resources to meet its financial requirements for the 2005 proposed work plan and budget approved by the Executive Board in October. The Executive Board had called on the Assembly to provide financial assistance to the Institute.

Statement of Secretary-General. In a November statement [A/C.5/59/16] on programme budget implications of draft resolution [A/C.3/59/L.26], the Secretary-General indicated that financial requirements for 2005 were estimated at \$1,183,700. Taking into account \$67,613 in additional contributions to the INSTRAW Trust Fund in October, resulting in a projected balance of \$91,300 in the Fund as at 31 December 2004, an additional amount of \$1,092,400 might be required from the UN regular budget to maintain the Institute in 2005.

ACABQ report. In November [A/59/579], the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, recommended that the Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee inform the General Assembly that should it adopt the draft resolution (above), an additional provision of up to \$1,092,400 would arise under Section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the 2004-2005 programme budget.

Fifth Committee consideration. In December [A/59/641], the Fifth Committee informed the Assembly accordingly and recommended that the Secretary-General be requested to report to the Assembly, as a matter of priority, during the main part of its sixtieth (2005) session on the Institute's overall financial situation.