

Women

In 2009, United Nations efforts to advance the status of women worldwide continued to be guided by 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 (Beijing+5), which reviewed progress in their implementation.

The Assembly, following a series of meetings among representatives of Member States and relevant UN bodies, adopted a September resolution in which it supported the consolidation of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Division for the Advancement of Women, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) into a composite entity, to be led by an Under-Secretary-General. The aim of the strengthened organizational architecture, which was part of the UN reform agenda, was to provide the UN system with a single driver and voice on gender equality.

The Commission on the Status of Women, at its March session, adopted conclusions on the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, which included caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS, and a summary on gender perspectives on global public health. Both were transmitted to the Economic and Social Council for adoption and as input into its annual ministerial review. The Commission recommended to the Council for adoption draft resolutions on the future operation of INSTRAW; the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women; the future organization and methods of work of the Commission; and the Commission's Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women, all of which the Council adopted in July, along with a resolution on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all UN system policies and programmes. The Commission adopted and brought to the Council's attention resolutions on women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS, and on preparations for its 2010 session, during which there would be a review of the Fourth World Conference and Beijing+5.

The Assembly adopted resolutions on: eliminating violence against women; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; violence against women migrant workers; improvement of the situation of women in rural areas; the girl child; and women in development. The Coun-

cil and the Assembly both decided that a meeting would be held in 2010 to commemorate the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

UNIFEM continued its work on strengthening women's economic security and rights; ending violence against women; reducing the prevalence of HIV/AIDS among girls and women; and advancing gender justice in democratic governance, including in conflict-affected and post-conflict countries. In June, the UNIFEM strategic plan, 2008–2011, including its integrated financial resources framework, was extended to 2013.

Two resolutions adopted by the Security Council in September and October addressed issues of women, peace and security and focused on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, including: the use of sexual violence; the needs of women and girls in post-conflict situations; and the underrepresentation of women in peace processes. In the September resolution, the Council requested the Secretary-General to appoint a Special Representative on sexual violence in conflict.

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

During 2009, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly considered follow-up to the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, particularly 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 both instruments adopted at the twenty-third (2000) special session of the Assembly (Beijing+5) by resolution S/23-2 [YUN 2000, p. 1084]. The Declaration had reaffirmed the commitment of Governments to the goals and objectives of the Fourth World Conference and to the implementation of the 12 critical areas of concern outlined 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; the human rights of women; women and the media; women and the environment; and the girl child. The issue of mainstreaming a gender perspective into UN policies and programmes continued to be addressed (see p. 1144).

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 63/159 [YUN 2008, p. 1251], the Secretary-General, in an August report [A/64/218], described measures taken and progress achieved in the follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the Assembly. The report provided an overview of steps taken by intergovernmental bodies to promote gender perspectives in their work, including advances made during the sixty-third (2008) session of the Assembly and the 2008 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council and in the work of their subsidiary bodies, especially at the 2008 session of the Commission on the Status of Women. It also assessed, in response to Council resolution 2006/9 [YUN 2006, p. 1356], the impact of the Commission's input into discussions within the UN system.

The Secretary-General noted that the Assembly, the Council and their subsidiary bodies considered a number of issues during the year to strengthen the global policy framework on gender equality, but the issue most consistently addressed across agenda items was violence against women, including trafficking in women and girls. Other areas that received attention were decent work, and peace, security and humanitarian assistance. While many Assembly reports and resolutions expressed commitments to gender equality goals, fewer contained specific data and recommendations to guide and monitor implementation. Gender equality and the empowerment of women were also addressed at several high-level meetings and events, as well as in the work of Assembly subsidiary bodies, such as the Peacebuilding Commission and the Human Rights Council. An estimated 30 per cent of resolutions analysed in preparation for the report (as at mid-June 2009) included some references to gender-equality issues. As in previous years, outcomes of the Assembly's Second (Economic and Financial) and Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committees and the plenary contained more information on gender perspectives than those of the other Assembly Committees.

At its 2008 high-level segment and annual ministerial review, the Economic and Social Council discussed several issues of relevance to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. The Ministerial Declaration of the Council's high-level segment on "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development" [YUN 2008, p. 903] reaffirmed commit-

ments to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. Most of the Council's functional commissions, in addition to the Commission on the Status of Women, addressed gender perspectives in their deliberations and outcomes to some extent.

The Secretary-General concluded that there was a need to improve the mainstreaming of gender equality in policy development, programme planning and monitoring and reporting, including through improved use of sex-disaggregated data, gender-sensitive indicators and gender-responsive budgeting. He stated that concerns were raised about the limited progress made on Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 5 (improving maternal health) and observed that progress on promoting gender equality and empowering women depended on the extent to which the actions taken to achieve the other MDGs were designed to promote the equality of women and men. In 2010, several reviews and intergovernmental events would assess progress towards achieving the MDGs and provide opportunities to address implementation gaps and challenges regarding the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the Assembly, and other initiatives on women (see below). The Secretary-General suggested that the Assembly might wish to encourage Member States, UN entities, international and regional organizations and other actors to use the opportunities provided by intergovernmental bodies in 2010 to accelerate progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Review of the Fourth World Conference and Beijing+5 (2010)

Commission action. On 13 March, the Commission on the Status of Women adopted a resolution [E/2009/27 (res. 53/1)] on preparations for its fifty-fourth (2010) session, in which it decided to review in 2010 the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action [YUN 1995, p. 1170] 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" [YUN 2000, p. 1082]. It requested the Commission's Bureau to hold informal consultations with the Commission's member States and observer States on the modalities of the review in order to agree on its format and outcome. It also decided to commemorate the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action during its fifty-fourth session in March 2010.

Commemoration of fifteenth anniversary. On 28 July, the Council recommended to the Assembly the adoption of a draft decision on holding a com-

memorative meeting during the 2010 session of the Commission on the Status of Women to mark the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (**decision 2009/233**). On 18 December, the Assembly took that action (**decision 64/530**).

NGO participation. On 28 July, the Council decided, on an exceptional basis, to invite the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that were accredited either to the Fourth World Conference on Women or the twenty-third special session of the Assembly to attend the Commission's 2010 session (**decision 2009/234**). The Council urged relevant UN system bodies to assist NGOs, particularly those from developing and least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, which did not have the resources to participate.

High-level round table. In December, a discussion guide [E/CN.6/2010/3] was issued for the forthcoming high-level round table on "Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the Assembly and its contribution to shaping a gender perspective towards the full realization of the MDGs".

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 65], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/64/433], adopted **resolution 64/141** without vote [agenda item 62 (b)].

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 63/159 of 18 December 2008,

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 achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned,

Reaffirming the commitments to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the Millennium Summit, the 2005 World Summit and other major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, and reaffirming also that their full, effective and accelerated implementation is integral to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Welcoming progress made towards achieving gender equality, but stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session,

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

Noting that the Commission on the Status of Women will undertake, at its fifty-fourth session, a review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, emphasizing the sharing of experiences and good practices, with a view to overcoming remaining obstacles and new challenges, including those related to the Millennium Development Goals,

Taking into consideration the theme of the annual ministerial review to be held by the Economic and Social Council in 2010, "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women",

Welcoming the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in reviewing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and noting with appreciation all its agreed conclusions, including the latest, on the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS, adopted by the Commission at its fifty-third session,

Reaffirming that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for promoting the empowerment of women and achieving gender equality by transforming structures of inequality, and reaffirming also the commitment to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres, as well as the commitment to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender equality,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, and stressing the importance of the continued integration of a gender perspective in the work and activities of the Human Rights Council,

Reaffirming the commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,

Bearing in mind the challenges and obstacles to changing discriminatory attitudes and gender stereotypes, and stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of international standards and norms to address the inequality between men and women,

Reaffirming the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS adopted at the High-level Meeting on HIV/AIDS, held from 31 May

to 2 June 2006, which, inter alia, acknowledged the feminization of the pandemic,

Expressing serious concern that the urgent goal of 50/50 gender balance in the United Nations system, especially at senior and policymaking levels, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, remains unmet, and that the representation of women in the United Nations system has remained almost static, with negligible improvement in some parts of the system, and in some cases has even decreased, as reflected in the report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system,

Reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding,

Recalling Security Council resolutions 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000 and 1820(2008) of 19 June 2008 on women and peace and security, and welcoming the adoption of Council resolution 1882(2009) of 4 August 2009 on children and armed conflict and Council resolutions 1888(2009) of 30 September 2009 and 1889(2009) of 5 October 2009 on women and peace and security,

Welcoming its resolution 63/311 of 14 September 2009, in particular the provisions on strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women, reaffirming its strong support expressed therein for the consolidation of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Division for the Advancement of Women, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women into a composite entity, taking into account the existing mandates, which would be led by an Under-Secretary-General, and looking forward to the full implementation of resolution 63/311,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the 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 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and the declaration adopted on the occasion of the ten-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, and also reaffirms its commitment to their full, effective and accelerated implementation;

3. *Also reaffirms* the primary and essential role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the catalytic role of the Commission on the Status of Women, in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women based on the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, and in promoting and monitoring gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system;

4. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the fulfilment of the obligations of States parties under the Convention on

the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women are mutually reinforcing in respect of achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, and in this regard welcomes the contributions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to promoting the implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, and invites States parties to the Convention to include information on measures taken to enhance implementation at the national level in their reports to the Committee under article 18 of the Convention;

5. *Calls upon* States parties to comply fully with their obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto and to take into consideration the concluding observations as well as the general recommendations of the Committee, urges States parties to consider limiting the extent of any reservations that they lodge to the Convention, to formulate any reservations as precisely and narrowly as possible, and to regularly review such reservations with a view to withdrawing them so as to ensure that no reservation is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention, also urges all Member States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to consider doing so, and calls upon those Member States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol;

6. *Welcomes* the opportunities provided in intergovernmental bodies in 2010 to accelerate progress in the achievement of gender equality, the empowerment of women and gender balance, including the fifteen-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the review of the outcome of the twenty-third special session at the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the annual ministerial review to be held by the Economic and Social Council on the theme "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women", the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, and the tenth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325(2000);

7. *Encourages* Member States, United Nations entities, international and regional organizations and other relevant actors to fully utilize the opportunities provided in intergovernmental bodies in 2010, including intergovernmental consultations, with a view to ensuring prompt progress as set forth in resolution 63/311, including strengthening the institutional arrangements for the support of gender equality and the empowerment of women, so as to accelerate progress in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women based on the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

8. *Underlines* the significance of the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, at which the Commission will undertake the fifteen-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the review of the outcome of the twenty-third special session, emphasizing the sharing of experiences and good practices, with a view to overcoming remaining obstacles and new challenges, including those

related to the full realization of all Millennium Development Goals, including Goal 3;

9. *Encourages* all actors, inter alia, Governments, the United Nations system, other international organizations and civil society, to continue to support the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in fulfilling its central role in the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, and, as applicable, to carry out its recommendations, and welcomes in this regard the revised programme and methods of work of the Commission adopted at its fifty-third session, which continue to focus attention on the sharing of experiences, lessons learned and good practices in overcoming challenges to full implementation at the national and international levels as well as to the evaluation of progress in the implementation of priority themes;

10. *Encourages* participation at a high political level in the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and the 2010 annual ministerial review of the Economic and Social Council;

11. *Invites* States and requests relevant bodies of the United Nations system to publicize the forthcoming sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council, including through consultation with civil society;

12. *Calls upon* Governments and the organs and relevant funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, and other international and regional organizations, including financial institutions, and all relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to intensify 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;

13. *Reaffirms* that States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent violence against women and girls, provide protection to the victims and investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls, and that failure to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, calls upon Governments to elaborate and implement laws and strategies to eliminate violence against women and girls, encourages and supports men and boys in taking an active part in the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence, encourages increased understanding among men and boys of how violence harms girls, boys, women and men and undermines gender equality, encourages all actors to speak out against any violence against women, and in this regard welcomes the Secretary-General's campaign "UNITE to End Violence against Women" and the United Nations Development Fund for Women social mobilization and advocacy platform "Say NO to violence against women";

14. *Reiterates its call* to the United Nations system, including the main organs, their main committees and subsidiary bodies, new functions such as the annual ministerial review and the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council, and the funds, programmes and specialized agencies, to increase efforts to fully mainstream a gender perspective into all issues under their consideration and within their mandates, as well as in all

United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions and in their follow-up processes, including the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Copenhagen from 7 to 18 December 2009, and to give attention to gender equality and the empowerment of women in preparations for such events, and in this regard looks forward to efficient and effective support for these efforts by the consolidated gender entity upon its establishment;

15. *Requests* that the entities of the United Nations system systematically incorporate the outcomes of the Commission on the Status of Women into their work within their mandates, inter alia, to ensure effective support for the efforts of Member States towards the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women;

16. *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;

17. *Requests* that reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and their subsidiary bodies systematically address gender perspectives through qualitative gender analysis, sex- and age-disaggregated data and, where available, quantitative data, in particular through concrete conclusions and recommendations for further action on gender equality and the empowerment of women, in order to facilitate gender-sensitive policy development;

18. *Calls upon* all parts of the United Nations system to continue to play an active role in ensuring the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, through, inter alia, the maintenance of gender specialists in all entities of the United Nations system, as well as by ensuring that all personnel, especially in the field, receive training and appropriate follow-up, including tools, guidance and support, for accelerated gender mainstreaming, and reaffirms the need to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review and redouble his efforts to make progress towards achieving the goal of 50/50 gender balance at all levels in the Secretariat and throughout the United Nations system, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, considering, in particular, women from developing and least developed countries, from countries with economies in transition and from under-represented or largely underrepresented Member States, and to ensure managerial and departmental accountability with respect to gender balance targets, and strongly encourages Member States to identify and regularly submit more women candidates for appointment to positions in the United Nations system, especially at more senior and policymaking levels, including in peacekeeping operations;

20. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to continue its efforts towards achieving the goal of gender balance, including with the active support of gender focal points, and requests the Secretary-General to provide an oral re-

port to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-fourth session, to report to the General Assembly on a biennial basis, beginning at its sixty-fifth session, under the item entitled “Advancement of women”, and to include in his report on human resources management information on the status of women in the United Nations system, including on progress made and obstacles encountered in achieving gender balance, recommendations for accelerating progress, and up-to-date statistics, including the number and percentage of women and their functions and nationalities throughout the United Nations system, and information on the responsibility and accountability of the Office of Human Resources Management of the Secretariat and the secretariat of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for promoting gender balance;

21. *Encourages* increased efforts by Governments and the United Nations system to enhance accountability for the implementation of commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women at the international, regional and national levels, including by improved monitoring and reporting on progress in relation to policies, strategies, resource allocations and programmes, and by achieving gender balance;

22. *Reaffirms* that Governments bear the primary responsibility for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and that international cooperation has an essential role in assisting developing countries in progressing towards the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to report annually to the General Assembly under the item entitled “Advancement of women”, as well as to the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council, 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 in gender mainstreaming, including information on key achievements, lessons learned and good practices, and recommendations on further measures to enhance implementation, taking into account the discussions and outcome of the fifty-fourth session of the Commission in respect of the fifteen-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the review of the outcome of the twenty-third special session.

Critical areas of concern

Women and poverty

Women in development

World survey. In response to General Assembly resolution 59/248 [YUN 2004, p. 1166], the Secretary-General, in June, submitted the sixth *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development* [A/64/93], a report presented to the Assembly at five-year intervals. As decided by the Assembly in resolution 60/210 [YUN 2005, p. 1262], the theme of the *Survey* was “Women’s control over economic resources and access to financial resources, including microfinance”.

The *Survey* observed that for many developing countries, the ongoing global economic and financial crisis would exacerbate the hardships associated with the food and fuel crises of 2007–2008. The gender equality implications and social and economic costs of those crises were likely to jeopardize the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. The *Survey* noted that gender equality perspectives had been largely ignored in macroeconomic analyses, and most equality-enhancing measures had been undertaken at the micro level. Many of those measures, such as the promotion of microfinance and cash transfers, had not addressed the underlying constraints on women’s access to and control over economic and financial resources. There was growing evidence that women brought critical perspectives and skills to public life, which made policy and budgetary decision-making more responsive to the needs and priorities of all groups. Efforts were required to promote women’s participation in economic decision-making bodies in all areas at the highest levels. Women’s unequal access to and control over resources, and their continued responsibility for unpaid domestic and care work, curtailed their productivity and restricted their capacity to respond to new economic opportunities and participate fully in public life.

The *Survey* recommended that Member States should implement the commitments contained in the Beijing Platform for Action, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the Assembly, and the MDGs. States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women [YUN 1979, p. 895] should implement their obligations under the Convention. With regard to the macroeconomic environment, the *Survey* suggested strengthening efforts to implement gender mainstreaming in relation to economic and financial resources, including through gender analysis, gender-impact assessment and gender-responsive budgeting. Recommendations also included implementing gender-sensitive, employment-centred growth strategies, and strengthening the impact of development assistance that targeted gender equality and women’s empowerment. On employment, the *Survey* recommended: the adoption and enforcement of the International Labour Organization’s principles of decent work in both formal and informal sectors; the undertaking of a gender analysis of national labour laws; the adoption and/or review of gender-sensitive legislation and policies; the enforcement of minimum-wage regulations; promotion of the recognition that care work should be shared among the State, the private sector, civil society and households; and development of the provision of public care services for children, the elderly, the sick and the disabled. As to land, housing and other productive resources, the *Survey*

recommended the adoption and/or review of legislation and policies to ensure women's equal access to and control over land, housing and other property. Further recommendations in that regard addressed measures to: strengthen investment to increase the productivity of women in rural areas and to provide water and sanitation to rural areas and urban slums; recognize and protect women's access to communal resources; ensure women's participation in decision-making on forest and water management; promote equal access for women and girls to information and communications technology; and ensure that women's critical role in food security was recognized. On financial services, the *Survey* recommended: promoting gender mainstreaming in all financial policies; strengthening the capacity of microcredit institutions to reach poor women; and ensuring that the mandates of financial providers included a commitment to gender equality. With regard to social protection, the *Survey* recommended improved gender-responsive social protection schemes and increases in the share of public expenditure allocated to social security to address vulnerabilities related to childhood, old age, ill health, disability, unemployment and poverty, taking into account the needs of women related to the unequal sharing of unpaid work. For each of the issues covered, the *Survey* recommended improving the collection and use of data, statistics and research on women's needs.

In an earlier note [E/CN.6/2009/14], the Secretary-General transmitted to the Commission on the Status of Women information regarding the preparation of the 2009 *Survey*.

In resolution 64/217 (see below), the Assembly took action on the *Survey*.

Integrating a gender perspective into national development strategies

In response to Assembly resolution 62/206 [YUN 2007, p. 1178], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/64/162 & Corr.1] on progress in integrating the specific priorities and needs of women in development, including in the formulation of national development strategies. Contributions from 34 Member States and a number of UN entities were used as a basis for the report.

The Secretary-General concluded that while progress had been made on integrating women in development in some areas, such as the targets for MDG 3 on education, employment and political participation, the gains were slow and uneven across regions, and the priorities and needs of women were not systematically incorporated into national development policies and strategies. The food crisis posed new challenges for women in development in many parts of the world and the financial and economic crisis was expected

to have disproportionate impacts on women, particularly with regard to employment. Despite initiatives to integrate gender perspectives into employment, entrepreneurship and social protection as part of national development strategies, gender inequalities persisted. Strengthened efforts to fully implement gender mainstreaming and increase resource allocation, including through gender-responsive budgeting, were needed in all areas. It was also necessary for responses to the financial and economic crisis, including social protection measures and employment creation, to be gender responsive to ensure that gains made in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women were not reversed. Adequate levels of national resource allocations and official development assistance for gender equality and women's empowerment, including in productive sectors, should be maintained throughout the crisis and its aftermath.

In addition to recommending that the share of development assistance targeting gender equality and women's empowerment be increased, the Secretary-General suggested that a gender perspective be integrated into the design, implementation, monitoring and reporting of all national development policies, strategies and plans. Further recommendations included: the incorporation of gender perspectives into local, national, regional and international responses to the financial and economic crisis; the development of methodologies and tools for systematic gender-responsive budgeting across all sectors; the adoption, implementation and evaluation of gender-sensitive legislation and policies that promoted balance between paid work and family responsibilities; the development and implementation of programmes aimed at promoting women's entrepreneurship; and the establishment and funding of gender-sensitive labour market policies. The Secretary-General further recommended strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices in order to undertake the collection of reliable, comparable and gender-sensitive statistics to identify the needs and priorities of women and girls in all areas of development.

Communication. In a 2 February letter to the Secretary-General [A/63/704], Cuba, as Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), transmitted the text of the Guatemala Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the Second Ministerial Meeting of NAM on the Advancement of Women Towards the Achievement of the MDGs (Guatemala City, 21–24 January).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 21 December [meeting 66], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/64/424/Add.2], adopted **resolution 64/217** without vote [agenda item 57 (b)].

Women in development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/195 of 18 December 1997, 54/210 of 22 December 1999, 56/188 of 21 December 2001, 58/206 of 23 December 2003, 59/248 of 22 December 2004, 60/210 of 22 December 2005 and 62/206 of 19 December 2007 and all its other resolutions on the integration of women in development, and the relevant resolutions and agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women, including the Declaration adopted at its forty-ninth session,

Reaffirming 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”,

Reaffirming also the commitments to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the Millennium Summit, the 2005 World Summit and other major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, and reaffirming further that their full, effective and accelerated implementation are integral to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Reaffirming further the United Nations Millennium Declaration, which affirms that the equal rights and opportunities of women and men must be assured, and calls for, inter alia, the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women as being effective in and essential to eradicating poverty and hunger, combating diseases and stimulating development that is truly sustainable,

Recalling the outcomes of the International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development and the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development,

Taking note with appreciation of the discussion on women in development in the Commission on the Status of Women at its fiftieth session, and recalling its agreed conclusions on “Enhanced participation of women in development: an enabling environment for achieving gender equality and the advancement of women, taking into account, inter alia, the fields of education, health and work”,

Recognizing that access to basic affordable health care, preventive health information and the highest standard of health, including in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, is critical to women’s economic advancement, that lack of economic empowerment and independence increases women’s vulnerability to a range of negative consequences, including the risk of contracting HIV/AIDS, and that the neglect of the full enjoyment of human rights by women severely limits their opportunities in public and private life, including the opportunity for education and economic and political empowerment,

Reaffirming that gender equality is of fundamental importance for achieving sustained and inclusive economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions and United Nations conferences, and that investing in the development of women and girls has a multiplier effect,

in particular on productivity, efficiency and sustained and inclusive economic growth, in all sectors of the economy, especially in key areas such as agriculture, industry and services,

Reaffirming also the significant contribution that women make to the economy, that women are key contributors to the economy and to combating poverty and inequalities through both remunerated and unremunerated work at home, in the community and in the workplace and that the empowerment of women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty,

Recognizing that the difficult socio-economic conditions that exist in many developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, have contributed to the feminization of poverty,

Expressing deep concern over the disproportionate negative impact on women of the multiple interrelated and mutually exacerbating current global crises, in particular the world financial and economic crisis, the volatile energy prices, the food crisis and the challenges posed by climate change,

Noting that gender biases in labour markets and women’s lack of control over their own labour and earned income are also major factors in women’s vulnerability to poverty and, together with women’s disproportionate responsibilities for domestic work, result in a lack of economic autonomy and influence in economic decision-making within households and in society at all levels,

Recognizing that population and development issues, education and training, health, nutrition, the environment, water supply, sanitation, housing, communications, science and technology and decent employment opportunities are important elements for effective poverty eradication and the advancement and empowerment of women,

Welcoming its resolution 63/311 of 14 September 2009, in particular the provisions on strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women, reaffirming its strong support expressed therein for the consolidation of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Division for the Advancement of Women, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women into a composite entity, taking into account the existing mandates, to be led by an Under-Secretary-General, and looking forward to the full implementation of resolution 63/311,

Recognizing, in this context, the importance of respect for all human rights, including the right to development, and of a national and international environment that promotes, inter alia, justice, gender equality, equity, civil and political participation and civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and fundamental freedoms for the advancement and empowerment of women,

Reaffirming the need to eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education by the earliest possible date and at all levels by 2015, and reaffirming that equal access to education and training at all levels, in particular in business, trade, administration, information and communications technology and other new technologies, and fulfilment of the need to eliminate gender inequalities at all levels, are essential for gender equality, the empowerment of

women and poverty eradication and to allow women's full and equal contribution to, and equal opportunity to benefit from, development,

Recognizing that poverty eradication and the achievement and preservation of peace are mutually reinforcing, and recognizing also that peace is inextricably linked to equality between women and men and to development,

Aware that, while globalization and liberalization processes have created employment opportunities for women in many countries, they have also made some women, especially in developing countries and in particular in the least developed countries, more vulnerable to problems caused by increased economic volatility, including in the agricultural sector, and that special support, particularly for women who are small-scale farmers, and empowerment are necessary to enable them to take advantage of the opportunities arising from agricultural market liberalization,

Recognizing that enhanced trade opportunities for developing countries, including through trade liberalization, will improve the economic condition of their societies, including women, which is of particular importance in rural communities,

Expressing its concern that, while women represent an important and growing proportion of business owners, their contribution to economic and social development is constrained by, inter alia, the denial and lack of equal rights and their lack of access to legal aid, education, training, information, support services and credit facilities including salaries, and control over land, capital, technology and other areas of production,

Expressing its concern also regarding the underrepresentation of women in political and economic decision-making, and stressing the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of all policies and programmes, including in conflict prevention and fragile situations and in post-conflict peace-building,

Noting the importance of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular its funds and programmes, and the specialized agencies, in facilitating the advancement of women in development,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General;

2. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, and all sectors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, as well as all women and men, to fully commit themselves and to intensify their contributions to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

3. *Recognizes* the mutually reinforcing links between gender equality and poverty eradication and the achievement of all of the Millennium Development Goals, as well as the need to elaborate and implement, where appropriate, in consultation with civil society, comprehensive gender-sensitive poverty eradication strategies that address social, structural and macroeconomic issues;

4. *Emphasizes* the need to link policies on economic and social development to ensure that all people, including those in poor and vulnerable groups, benefit from inclusive economic growth and development, in accordance with

the goals of the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development;

5. *Urges* Member States, non-governmental organizations and the United Nations system to accelerate further efforts to increase the number of women in decision-making and to build their capacity as agents of change, and to empower women to participate actively and effectively in the development, implementation and evaluation of national development and/or poverty eradication policies, strategies and programmes, including, where appropriate, programme-based approaches;

6. *Stresses* the importance of the adoption by Member States, international organizations, including the United Nations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, trade unions and other stakeholders of appropriate measures to identify and address the negative impacts of the economic and financial crisis on women and girls and of maintaining adequate levels of funding for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women;

7. *Also stresses* the importance of the creation by Member States, international organizations, including the United Nations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, trade unions and other stakeholders of a favourable and conducive national and international environment in all areas of life for the effective integration of women in development, and of their undertaking and disseminating a gender analysis of policies and programmes related to macroeconomic stability, structural reform, taxation, investments, including foreign direct investment, and all relevant sectors of the economy;

8. *Urges* the donor community, Member States, international organizations, including the United Nations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, trade unions and other stakeholders to strengthen the focus and impact of development assistance targeting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls through gender mainstreaming, the funding of targeted activities and enhanced dialogue between donors and partners, and to also strengthen the mechanisms needed to effectively measure the resources allocated to incorporating gender perspectives in all areas of development assistance;

9. *Urges* Member States, non-governmental organizations and the United Nations system to accelerate further their efforts to increase the number of women in economic decision-making bodies, including at the highest levels in the relevant government ministries, international organizations, corporate boards and the banking sector, as well as to improve the collection, compilation, dissemination and use of data on women's participation in economic decision-making bodies;

10. *Urges* Member States to incorporate a gender perspective, commensurate with gender equality goals, into the design, implementation, monitoring and reporting of national development strategies, and to encourage the involvement of men and boys in the promotion of gender equality, and in this regard calls upon the United Nations system to support national efforts to develop methodologies and tools and to promote capacity-building and evaluation;

11. *Calls upon* Member States to integrate a gender perspective into the design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of national environmental policies, and to strengthen mechanisms and provide adequate

resources to ensure women's full and equal participation in decision-making at all levels on environmental issues, in particular on strategies related to the impact of climate change on the lives of women and girls;

12. *Encourages* Member States to ensure inclusive and more effective participation of national mechanisms for gender equality and women's empowerment in formulating national development strategies, including strategies aimed at eradicating poverty and reducing inequalities, and calls upon the United Nations system to support national efforts in this regard;

13. *Calls upon* Member States to continue to increase women's representation and participation in government decision-making at all levels in development policy areas in order to ensure that the priorities, needs and contributions of women are taken into consideration by, inter alia, providing access to training, developing measures to reconcile family and professional responsibilities and eliminating gender stereotyping in appointments and promotions;

14. *Expresses deep concern* about the pervasiveness of violence against women and girls, reiterates the need to further intensify efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, and recognizes that violence against women and girls is one of the obstacles to the achievement of the objectives of equality, development and peace and that women's poverty and the lack of political, social and economic empowerment, as well as their marginalization, may result from their exclusion from social policies for and benefits of sustainable development and can place them at increased risk of violence;

15. *Recognizes* the need to strengthen the capacity of Governments to incorporate a gender perspective into policies and decision-making, and encourages all Governments, international organizations, including the United Nations system, and other relevant stakeholders to assist and support the efforts of developing countries in integrating a gender perspective into all aspects of policymaking, including through the provision of technical assistance and financial resources;

16. *Encourages* Governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other actors of civil society to promote and protect the rights of women workers, to take action to remove structural and legal barriers as well as stereotypic attitudes towards gender equality at work and to initiate positive steps to promote equal pay for equal work or work of equal value;

17. *Urges* Governments to develop and adequately resource active labour-market policies on full and productive employment and decent work for all, including the full participation of women and men in both rural and urban areas;

18. *Calls upon* Governments to strengthen efforts to protect the rights of, and ensure decent work conditions for, domestic workers, including migrant women, in relation to, inter alia, working hours, conditions and wages, access to health-care services and other social and economic benefits;

19. *Encourages* Member States to adopt and/or review and to fully implement gender-sensitive legislation and policies that reduce, through specifically targeted measures, horizontal and vertical occupational segregation and gender-based wage gaps;

20. *Urges* all Member States to undertake a gender analysis of national labour laws and standards and to

establish gender-sensitive policies and guidelines for employment practices, including for transnational corporations, with particular attention to export-processing zones, building in this regard on multilateral instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and Conventions of the International Labour Organization;

21. *Also urges* all Member States to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women with regard to their access to financial services, including bank loans, bank accounts, mortgages and other forms of financial credit, giving special attention to poor, uneducated women, to support women's access to legal assistance and to encourage the financial sector to mainstream gender perspectives in their policies and programmes;

22. *Recognizes* the role of microfinance, including microcredit, in the eradication of poverty, the empowerment of women and the generation of employment, notes in this regard the importance of sound national financial systems, and encourages the strengthening of existing and emerging microcredit institutions and their capacities, including through the support of international financial institutions;

23. *Urges* Governments to ensure that microfinance programmes focus on developing savings products that are safe, convenient and accessible to women in their efforts and support women's efforts to retain control over their savings;

24. *Urges* all Governments to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of education and ensure their equal access to all levels of education;

25. *Stresses* the importance of developing national strategies for the promotion of sustainable and productive entrepreneurial activities that will generate income among disadvantaged women and women living in poverty;

26. *Urges* Member States to encourage women entrepreneurs, including through education, vocational training and training of women in business, administration and information and communications technology, and invites business associations to assist national efforts in this regard;

27. *Encourages* Governments to create a climate that is conducive to increasing the number of women entrepreneurs and the size of their businesses by giving them greater access to financial instruments, providing training and advisory services, facilitating networking and information-sharing and increasing their participation in advisory boards and other forums so as to enable them to contribute to the formulation and review of policies and programmes being developed by financial institutions;

28. *Calls upon* Governments to promote, inter alia, through legislation and family-friendly and gender-sensitive work environments, the facilitation of breastfeeding for working mothers and the provision of the necessary care for working women's children and other dependants and to consider promoting policies and programmes, as appropriate, to enable men and women to reconcile their work, social and family responsibilities;

29. *Encourages* Member States to adopt and implement legislation and policies to promote the reconciliation of work and family responsibilities, including through increased flexibility in working arrangements such as part-time work, and to ensure that both women and men have access to maternity, paternity, parental and other forms

of leave and are not discriminated against when availing themselves of such benefits;

30. *Urges* Member States to adopt and review legislation and policies to ensure women's equal access to and control over land, housing and other property, including through inheritance, land reform programmes and land markets, and to take measures to implement those laws and policies;

31. *Urges* Governments to take measures to facilitate equitable access to land and property rights by providing training designed to make the judicial, legislative and administrative system more responsive to gender equality issues, to provide legal aid for women seeking to claim their rights, to support the efforts of women's groups and networks and to carry out awareness campaigns to draw attention to the need for women's equal rights to land and property;

32. *Recognizes* the need to empower women, particularly poor women, economically and politically, and in this regard encourages Governments, with the support of their development partners, to invest in appropriate infrastructure and other projects, including the provision of water and sanitation to rural areas and urban slums to increase health and well-being, relieve the workloads of women and girls and release their time and energy for other productive activities, including entrepreneurship;

33. *Also recognizes* the role of agriculture in development, and stresses the importance of reviewing agricultural policies and strategies to ensure that women's critical role in food security is recognized and addressed as an integral part of both short- and long-term responses to the food crisis;

34. *Expresses its concern* at the overall expansion and feminization of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and the fact that women and girls bear a disproportionate share of the burden imposed by HIV/AIDS, that they are more easily infected, that they play a key role in care and that they have become more vulnerable to violence, stigmatization and discrimination, poverty and marginalization from their families and communities as a result of HIV/AIDS, and calls upon Governments and the international community to intensify efforts towards achieving the goal of universal access to comprehensive HIV prevention programmes, treatment, care and support by 2010 and of having halted and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015;

35. *Reaffirms* the commitment to achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015, as set out at the International Conference on Population and Development, by integrating this goal into strategies to attain the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration aimed at reducing maternal mortality, improving maternal health, reducing child mortality, promoting gender equality, combating HIV/AIDS and eradicating poverty;

36. *Recognizes* that there is a need for all donors to maintain and deliver on their existing bilateral and multilateral official development assistance commitments and targets, and that the full implementation of these commitments will substantially boost resources available to push forward the international development agenda;

37. *Expresses deep concern* that maternal health remains one area constrained by some of the largest health inequities in the world, and over the uneven progress in improving

child and maternal health, and in this context calls upon States to renew their commitment to preventing and eliminating child and maternal mortality and morbidity;

38. *Encourages* the international community, the United Nations system, the private sector and civil society to continue to provide the necessary financial resources to assist national Governments in their efforts to meet the development targets and benchmarks agreed upon at the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the International Conference on Population and Development, the Millennium Summit, the International Conference on Financing for Development, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Second World Assembly on Ageing, the twenty-third and twenty-fourth special sessions of the General Assembly and other relevant United Nations conferences and summits;

39. *Urges* multilateral donors, and invites international financial institutions, within their respective mandates, and regional development banks to review and implement policies that support national efforts to ensure that a higher proportion of resources reaches women, in particular in rural and remote areas;

40. *Stresses* the importance of collecting and exchanging all relevant information needed on the role of women in development, including data on international migration, as well as the need to develop statistics disaggregated by age and sex, and in that regard encourages developed countries and relevant entities of the United Nations to provide support and assistance to developing countries, upon their request, with respect to establishing, developing and strengthening their databases and information systems;

41. *Recognizes* the critical role and contribution of rural women, including indigenous women, and their traditional knowledge, in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty;

42. *Calls upon* all organizations of the United Nations system, within their organizational mandates, to mainstream a gender perspective and to pursue gender equality in their country programmes, planning instruments and sector-wide programmes and to articulate specific country-level goals and targets in this domain in accordance with national development strategies;

43. *Calls upon* the organizations of the United Nations development system, within their organizational mandates, to further improve their institutional accountability mechanisms and to include intergovernmentally agreed gender-equality results and gender-sensitive indicators in their strategic frameworks;

44. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to integrate gender mainstreaming into all its programmes and policies, including in the integrated follow-up to United Nations conferences, in accordance with agreed conclusions 1997/2 on gender mainstreaming adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1997;

45. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, including on integrating a gender perspective into national development strategies;

46. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to update the *2009 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development*

for consideration by the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, noting that the survey should continue to focus on selective emerging development themes that have an impact on the role of women in the economy at the national, regional and international levels;

47. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session the sub-item entitled “Women in development”.

Women in rural areas

In response to General Assembly resolution 62/136 [YUN 2007, p. 1182], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/64/190] on the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas. The report, based on information received from 28 Member States and a number of UN entities, summarized action taken to address different aspects of the empowerment of rural women, such as: including rural women in intergovernmental processes; promoting the participation of rural women in decision-making; strengthening the economic empowerment of rural women; providing health-care services; eliminating violence against women in rural areas; and meeting the needs of vulnerable rural women, such as those with disabilities, indigenous women, and older rural women.

The Secretary-General concluded that the persistent inequalities and discrimination faced by rural women posed significant challenges to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. The adverse impacts of multiple global crises affected rural women, particularly poor women, disproportionately. There was growing recognition that rural women, including indigenous women, could be critical agents in crisis response, but little had been done to mobilize and empower them to contribute effectively. Improving the situation of rural women required the promotion of non-agricultural employment and full access to productive resources. Other elements included strengthening the responsiveness of public health systems to the needs of rural women and enhanced measures to prevent violence against women. Recommendations included: promoting rural women’s participation in decision-making; strengthening efforts to protect the rights of and ensure decent work conditions for rural women workers; promoting the rights of women and girls with disabilities in rural areas; and strengthening measures to accelerate progress towards the achievement of MDG 5 on maternal health.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 65], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/64/433], adopted **resolution 64/140** without vote [agenda item 62 (a)].

Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 56/129 of 19 December 2001, 58/146 of 22 December 2003, 60/138 of 16 December 2005 and 62/136 of 18 December 2007,

Recalling also the importance attached to the problems of rural women in the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women 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”, including the review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcomes, and in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Recalling further the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which Member States resolved, inter alia, to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate development that is truly sustainable, and the 2005 World Summit Outcome, in which they also resolved to promote gender equality and eliminate pervasive gender discrimination by taking all the necessary resolute action,

Welcoming the declaration adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-ninth session in the context of the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

Noting the attention paid to the improvement of the situation of indigenous women in rural areas in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,

Recognizing the work of relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, especially the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in promoting education for all, giving particular attention to girls and women in rural areas,

Welcoming the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, as well as the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”), in which Governments were called upon to mainstream the gender perspective into development at all levels and in all sectors, and recalling the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008,

Welcoming also the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2003 of the Economic and Social Council, adopted on 2 July 2003, which stressed the need for rural development to become an integral part of national and international development policies and of activities and programmes of the United Nations system, and called for an enhanced role for rural women at all levels of rural development, including decision-making,

Recalling the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Geneva in 2003 and Tunis in 2005, as well as

the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, adopted by the World Summit in 2005, which reaffirmed the commitment to building capacity in information and communications technology for all and confidence in the use of information and communications technology by all, including women, indigenous peoples and remote and rural communities,

Recognizing the critical role and contribution of rural women, including indigenous women, in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty,

Reiterating that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today, and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in particular for developing countries, while recognizing that rural areas of developing countries continue to be home to the vast majority of the world's poor people,

Recognizing the contributions of older rural women to the family and the community, especially in cases where they are left behind by migrating adults or as a result of other socio-economic factors to assume childcare, household and agricultural responsibility,

Reiterating the call for fair globalization and the need to translate growth into eradication of poverty, including for rural women, and in this regard applauding the resolve to make the goals of full and productive employment and decent work for all, including for rural women, a central objective of relevant national and international policies as well as national development strategies, including poverty eradication strategies,

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

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

2. *Urges* Member States, in collaboration with the organizations of the United Nations and civil society, as appropriate, to continue their efforts to implement the outcome of and to ensure an integrated and coordinated follow-up to the United Nations conferences and summits, including their reviews, and to attach greater importance to the improvement of the situation of rural women, including indigenous women, in their national, regional and global development strategies by, inter alia:

(a) Creating an enabling environment for improving the situation of rural women and ensuring systematic attention to their needs, priorities and contributions, including through enhanced cooperation and a gender perspective, and their full participation in the development, implementation and follow-up of macroeconomic policies, including development policies and programmes and poverty eradication strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers where they exist, based on internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

(b) Pursuing the political and socio-economic empowerment of rural women and supporting their full and equal participation in decision-making at all levels, including through affirmative action, where appropriate, and support for women's organizations, labour unions or other associations and civil society groups promoting rural women's rights;

(c) Promoting consultation with and the participation of rural women, including indigenous women and women

with disabilities, through their organizations and networks, in the design, development and implementation of gender equality and rural development programmes and strategies;

(d) Ensuring that the perspectives of rural women are taken into account and that they participate in the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of policies and activities related to emergencies, including natural disasters, humanitarian assistance, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction, and taking appropriate measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against rural women in this regard;

(e) Integrating a gender perspective into the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of development policies and programmes, including budget policies, paying increased attention to the needs of rural women so as to ensure that they benefit from policies and programmes adopted in all spheres and that the disproportionate number of rural women living in poverty is reduced;

(f) Investing in and strengthening efforts to meet the basic needs of rural women through improved availability, access to and use of critical rural infrastructure, such as energy and transport, capacity-building and human resources development measures and the provision of a safe and reliable water supply and sanitation, nutritional programmes, affordable housing programmes, education and literacy programmes, and health and social support measures, including in the areas of sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support services;

(g) Strengthening measures, including resource generation, to accelerate progress towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 5 on improving maternal health by addressing the specific health needs of rural women and taking concrete measures to enhance and provide access to the highest attainable standards of health for women in rural areas, as well as quality, affordable and universally accessible primary health care and support services, including in such areas of sexual and reproductive health as prenatal and post-natal health care, emergency obstetric care, family planning information and increasing knowledge, awareness and support for the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS;

(h) Designing and implementing national policies that promote and protect the enjoyment by rural women and girls of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and creating an environment that does not tolerate violations of their rights, including domestic violence, sexual violence and all other forms of gender-based violence;

(i) Ensuring that the rights of older women in rural areas are taken into account with regard to their equal access to basic social services, appropriate social protection/social security measures, equal access to and control of economic resources, and empowerment of older women through access to financial and infrastructure services, with special focus on support to older women, including indigenous women, who often have access to few resources and are more vulnerable;

(j) Promoting the rights of women and girls with disabilities in rural areas, including by ensuring access on an equal basis to productive employment and decent work, economic and financial resources and disability-sensitive infrastructure and services, in particular in relation to

health and education, as well as by ensuring that their priorities and needs are fully incorporated into policies and programmes, inter alia, through their participation in decision-making processes;

(k) Developing specific assistance programmes and advisory services to promote economic skills of rural women in banking, modern trading and financial procedures and providing microcredit and other financial and business services to a greater number of women in rural areas, in particular female-headed households, for their economic empowerment;

(l) Mobilizing resources, including at the national level and through official development assistance, for increasing women's access to existing savings and credit schemes, as well as targeted programmes that provide women with capital, knowledge and tools that enhance their economic capacities;

(m) Integrating increased employment opportunities for rural women into all international and national development strategies and poverty eradication strategies, including by expanding non-agricultural employment opportunities, improving working conditions and increasing access to productive resources;

(n) Taking steps towards ensuring that women's unpaid work and contributions to on-farm and off-farm production, including income generated in the informal sector, are recognized and supporting remunerative non-agricultural employment of rural women, improving working conditions and increasing access to productive resources;

(o) Promoting programmes to enable rural women and men to reconcile their work and family responsibilities and to encourage men to share, equally with women, household and childcare responsibilities;

(p) Considering the adoption, where appropriate, of national legislation to protect the knowledge, innovations and practices of women in indigenous and local communities relating to traditional medicines, biodiversity and indigenous technologies;

(q) Addressing the lack of timely, reliable and sex-disaggregated data, including by intensifying efforts to include women's unpaid work in official statistics, and developing a systematic and comparative research base on rural women that will inform policy and programme decisions;

(r) Designing, revising and implementing laws to ensure that rural women are accorded full and equal rights to own and lease land and other property, including through the right to inheritance, and undertaking administrative reforms and all necessary measures to give women the same right as men to credit, capital, appropriate technologies and access to markets and information;

(s) Supporting a gender-sensitive education system that considers the specific needs of rural women in order to eliminate gender stereotypes and discriminatory tendencies affecting them;

(t) Developing the capacity of personnel working in the areas of national development strategies, rural development, agricultural development, poverty eradication and implementation of the Millennium Development Goals to identify and address the challenges and constraints facing rural women, including through training programmes and the development and dissemination of methodologies

and tools, while acknowledging the technical assistance of relevant United Nations organizations;

3. *Strongly encourages* Member States, United Nations entities and all other relevant stakeholders to take measures to identify and address any negative impact of the current global crises on women in rural areas, including legislation, policies and programmes that strengthen gender equality and the empowerment of women;

4. *Invites* the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to pay due attention to the situation of rural women in the consideration of its priority themes;

5. *Requests* the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular those dealing with issues of development, to address and support the empowerment of rural women and their specific needs in their programmes and strategies;

6. *Stresses* the need to identify the best practices for ensuring that rural women have access to and full participation in the area of information and communications technology, to address the priorities and needs of rural women and girls as active users of information and to ensure their participation in developing and implementing global, regional and national information and communications technology strategies;

7. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations and relevant organizations of its system to ensure that the needs of rural women are mainstreamed into the integrated process of follow-up to the major conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, in particular the Millennium Summit, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the International Conference on Financing for Development and the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, the 2005 review and appraisal of the progress achieved in implementing all the commitments made in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and the 2005 World Summit;

8. *Calls upon* Member States to take into consideration the concluding observations and recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women concerning their reports to the Committee when formulating policies and designing programmes focused on the improvement of the situation of rural women, including those to be developed and implemented in cooperation with relevant international organizations;

9. *Invites* Governments, relevant international organizations and the specialized agencies to continue to observe the International Day of Rural Women annually, on 15 October, as proclaimed in its resolution 62/136;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

Women's health

Women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS

In response to Commission on the Status of Women resolution 52/4 [YUN 2008, p. 1255], the

Secretary-General submitted a report [E/CN.6/2009/6] on women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS, which described action taken by Member States and UN entities towards implementing that resolution. The Secretary-General noted that gender inequality was a key driver of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Women and adolescent girls were especially vulnerable to HIV/AIDS owing to biological conditions, economic and social inequalities and culturally accepted gender roles that placed them in a subordinate position in relation to men regarding sexual decision-making. Their frequent exposure to sexual violence—both inside and outside the home, and during armed conflict—also put women at an increased risk of contracting HIV. Factors such as poverty, illiteracy and gender-based power imbalances within families and communities restricted access for women to preventive care, drugs and treatment. In addition, women and girls bore the disproportionate burden of caring for those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

HIV/AIDS continued to impact women and girls in increasing numbers. Globally, the percentage of women among people living with HIV had remained stable (at 50 per cent) in recent years. However, women accounted for nearly 60 per cent of HIV infections in sub-Saharan Africa and women's share of infections had been increasing in a number of other regions, particularly in Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America. Although in 14 out of 17 African countries with survey data the percentage of young pregnant women (aged 15–24) living with HIV had declined since 2000–2001, among young people in Africa HIV prevalence was notably higher among women than men. Young women represented about two-thirds of all new cases among people aged 15 to 24 in developing countries, which made them the most affected group in the world. Studies suggested the risk of infection was three times higher in women who had experienced gender-based violence than among those who had not. The fear of violence prevented women from accessing HIV/AIDS information, being tested, disclosing their HIV status, accessing services and receiving treatment, even when they knew they were infected. Certain behaviours, such as unprotected sex, increased the risk of infection, while other factors could reduce the ability of the individual to avoid HIV risk. These included lack of knowledge and skills regarding protection and lack of access to services due to discrimination, sociocultural norms, and distance and cost.

The Secretary-General concluded that progress in achieving universal access to prevention programmes, treatment, care and support by 2010, in line with the commitments on HIV/AIDS made at the 2005 World Summit Outcome [YUN 2005, p. 55], required that existing HIV/AIDS policies, strategies and resource allocation be reviewed and adapted to

ensure they contributed to empowering women and reducing their vulnerability. Efforts were needed to expand access to services, such as education and information, sexual and reproductive health, antenatal care, prevention of mother-to-child transmission and antiretroviral therapy and microbicides. Recommendations included: increasing investment in female-controlled prevention methods, such as the female condom; increasing the participation and influence of women in HIV/AIDS decision-making bodies; and ensuring that women living with HIV continued to receive treatment after the risk of transmission to their children had ended. Governments needed to strengthen laws, public awareness campaigns and other measures to eliminate violence against women and girls, including harmful traditional practices, abuse and rape, and trafficking, which aggravated the conditions underlying women's vulnerability to HIV/AIDS.

Commission action. In a March resolution [E/2009/27 (res. 53/2)], the Commission on the Status of Women requested Governments to provide equal access for women and men throughout their life cycle to social services related to health care, especially for women and girls living with or affected by HIV/AIDS, including treatment for opportunistic infections and other HIV-related diseases. It also requested the Secretariat and co-sponsors of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and other UN agencies responding to the HIV/AIDS pandemic to mainstream a gender and human rights perspective throughout their HIV- and AIDS-related operations, and to ensure that programmes and policies were developed to address the specific needs of women and girls. The Secretary-General was requested to invite Member States to work in partnership with the Global Coalition on Women and HIV/AIDS, convened by UNAIDS and its partners, to mobilize and support a range of national actors to ensure that national HIV and AIDS programmes were better able to respond to the needs and vulnerabilities of women and girls. Governments were called on to intensify efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls in relation to HIV/AIDS; to integrate HIV prevention, voluntary counselling and voluntary testing of HIV into other health services; and to integrate, along with the international donor community, a gender perspective in all matters of international assistance, and to take measures to ensure that resources concomitant with the impact of HIV/AIDS on women and girls were made available. In the process of the review of the MDGs, it was recommended that gender-equality perspectives be included throughout the deliberations and that attention be paid to the situation of women and girls infected or affected by HIV and AIDS.

Sharing of caregiving responsibilities and HIV/AIDS

In response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/9 [YUN 2006, p. 1356] and Assembly resolution 63/159 [YUN 2008, p. 1251], the Secretary-General submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women a report [E/CN.6/2009/4] on progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective into the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes, with a particular focus on the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including in the context of HIV/AIDS. Based on information from 28 Member States and on data from UN entities and other sources, the report was intended to be read in conjunction with the Secretary-General's report [E/CN.6/2009/2] on the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS, which was the priority theme of the Commission's session (see below).

The report's recommendations included that: States should ensure that comprehensive, multidisciplinary and gender-sensitive national policies and strategies on labour and social protection are in place, with measurable goals and timetables, monitoring and accountability measures, and mechanisms to ensure coordination with key stakeholders in the private sector and civil society; provisions for parental leave, policies on flexible working hours and other social protection measures, such as health insurance, pensions, and child and family allowances, should be extended to all sectors, including the informal sector; Member States and other actors should strengthen efforts to protect the rights and regulate the working conditions of domestic workers; men should be engaged in caregiving at the household level and in paid care work; and gender stereotypes should be challenged, particularly the stereotypical perceptions of the male breadwinner and female caretaker. In addition, the value and cost of care to households and society at large should be recognized and incorporated into national economic and social policies, strategies and budgets, as well as in international development cooperation policies and programmes.

Commission action. On 3 March [E/2009/27], the Commission on the Status of Women held a panel discussion on "Capacity-building for mainstreaming a gender perspective into national policies and programmes to support the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS". On 13 March [dec. 53/101], the Commission took note of the Secretary-General's report on the subject.

Report of Secretary-General. Also in response to Council resolution 2006/9, the Secretary-General submitted to the Commission a report [E/CN.6/2009/2]

that analysed the situation in relation to the session's priority theme "The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS", and proposed recommendations for consideration by the Commission.

The Secretary-General noted that the nature of caregiving was affected by factors such as household size and number and age of children. There were significant differences between developed and developing countries in the availability of infrastructure and services supporting caregiving. Changes in demographics in rapidly ageing societies and in the context of HIV/AIDS had increased the need for care and expanded the focus of care from children to the elderly and to adults of prime working age. The HIV/AIDS pandemic had drawn attention to both the importance of care work and the weaknesses of public policies and institutions created to address the care needs created by the disease. Data and information on home-based care were scarce, but most research showed that women and girls disproportionately assumed the responsibilities for HIV/AIDS-related care. As the unequal sharing of responsibilities had implications for a range of policy areas, including health, social welfare, family, education and the labour market, addressing the issue required a complex set of policy responses.

The Secretary-General suggested a number of actions that the Commission might consider recommending to Governments, the United Nations, the private sector and other stakeholders. They included: taking measures to eliminate discrimination against women in relation to marriage, family law, inheritance and property; promoting recognition of the fact that care work should be shared between women and men, as well as among the State, the private sector, civil society and households; adopting and reviewing gender-sensitive policies for the purpose of improving the rights, social protection and working conditions of paid and unpaid caregivers; strengthening the collection of sex- and age-disaggregated data to inform policymaking and measure progress in responsibility-sharing; and integrating gender perspectives into national HIV/AIDS policies and programmes and improving public health services to alleviate the demands on women and girls.

On 13 March [E/2009/27 (dec. 53/101)], the Commission took note of the Secretary-General's report.

Commission action. In March [E/2009/27], the Commission on the Status of Women held parallel high-level round tables on the theme "The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS", as well as panel discussions on key policy initiatives. The round tables had before them a discussion guide [E.CN.6/2009/12] prepared by the Commission's Bu-

reau. On 13 March, the Commission adopted agreed conclusions on the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS, which made recommendations for actions to be taken by Governments, UN system entities, international and regional organizations, civil society, the private sector, employer organizations, trade unions and the media. In accordance with resolution 2008/29 [YUN 2008, p. 1528], the Commission transmitted its agreed conclusions to the Council for adoption and as input into the annual ministerial review.

Gender in global public health

Note by Secretariat. In preparation for the Economic and Social Council's 2009 annual ministerial review on "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health" (see p. 1226), the Secretariat submitted a note [E/CN.6/2009/13] to the Commission on the Status of Women to assist it in providing input for the review. The note presented an overview of recommendations for actions to incorporate gender perspectives into global public health.

Commission action. In March [E/2009/27], the Commission convened an interactive expert panel on the theme "Gender perspectives on global public health: implementing the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs" and transmitted the summary of the panel discussion to the Council, in accordance with resolution 2008/29, and as an input into its 2009 annual ministerial review (see p. 1226).

Violence against women

In response to General Assembly resolution 63/155 [YUN 2008, p. 1260], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/64/151] on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women, based on information received from 38 UN entities, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the results of six inter-agency initiatives. Efforts to achieve greater coordination and collaboration within the UN system included: the Secretary-General's campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women", 2008–2015; the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality Task Force on Violence against Women; the United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict initiative; the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women; the Inter-agency Cooperation Group against Trafficking in Persons; the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking; and coordination at the regional level. Also discussed were initiatives on violence against women by UN entities in support of

national efforts, including those that expanded the knowledge base and strengthened data collection and analysis; promoted awareness-raising, advocacy and training; implemented training and capacity-building measures, including the development of tools; and supported legislative and policy development and access to services for victims/survivors.

The report noted that a framework for action had been elaborated for the UNiTE campaign, which provided an umbrella for activities by stakeholders at all levels and identified five key outcomes to be achieved in all countries by 2015. The Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality Task Force on Violence against Women, co-chaired by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the UN Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), achieved notable results with the joint programming pilot initiative that had taken place in 10 countries. The United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict initiative continued to build the knowledge base on sexual violence in conflict-related situations. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) led research missions to countries with a UN peacekeeping presence in order to finalize the *Analytical Inventory of Responses by Peacekeeping Personnel to War-Related Violence against Women*, which would catalogue good practices in protecting women from sexual violence and inform the training of peacekeepers. UN country teams were invited for the first time to apply for funding through the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, which was managed by UNIFEM and aimed to contribute to the goals of the UNiTE campaign. In response to the growing demand for financial support, which continued to exceed available resources, the Trust Fund set an annual target of \$100 million by 2015. In March 2009, the Secretary-General's database on violence against women was launched; it provided the first global publicly accessible "one-stop shop" for information on measures by Member States to address violence against women. At its 2009 session, the Statistical Commission approved an interim set of indicators to assist States in assessing the scope, prevalence and incidence of violence against women (see p. 1262).

The report concluded that key inter-agency initiatives had resulted in better coordinated support for national action on violence against women. It was noted that the database on violence against women had resulted in an increase in attention to issues such as female genital mutilation, the links between HIV/AIDS and violence against women, and violence against women in humanitarian and conflict situations. Other areas required increased attention, however. There was, for example, a need to increase knowledge about the impact of measures taken and results achieved.

The Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences submitted to the Human Rights Council her third report, which was on the political economy of women's human rights [A/HRC/11/6] (see p. 733).

UNIFEM activities. In response to General Assembly resolution 50/166 [YUN 1995, p. 1188], the Secretary-General transmitted the report [A/HRC/13/71-E/CN.6/2010/8] of UNIFEM on its 2009 activities to eliminate violence against women, including management of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women. By the end of 2009, the Trust Fund had supported 304 initiatives in 121 countries and territories with expenditures of more than \$50 million. The report noted that the Fund was uniquely positioned to support countries in translating commitments into real change in the lives of women and girls on the ground, in line with the Secretary-General's UNITE campaign. The report summarized the Fund's progress in implementing its strategy for 2005–2008, under which it continued to operate in 2009. The strategy's five pillars were: impact; involvement; efficiency; knowledge management and capacity development; and resource mobilization.

In 2009, the Fund had a portfolio of 81 active grants, covering 76 countries and territories, with a total value of nearly \$30 million. The Latin America and the Caribbean region had the largest portfolio (24 per cent), followed closely by Africa, and Asia and the Pacific (23 per cent each). Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, and Arab States had the smallest portfolios (15 and 8 per cent, respectively), while cross-regional programmes accounted for 7 per cent. A total of 1,643 concept notes were received requesting \$857 million, reflecting increases of 53 per cent in the number of applications and 63 per cent in the funds requested in just one year. The majority of new grantees included women's organizations and other NGOs (71 per cent), followed by UN country teams (19 per cent) and governmental organizations (10 per cent). In 2009, the Fund made significant progress in establishing a new grantee reporting system designed to capture results, learning and knowledge, and analyse trends across the entire grant-making portfolio. The comprehensive database reporting system would be launched in 2010. The Fund advanced a new fund-raising strategy in 2009, guided by the drive to reach the target of \$100 million annually by 2015, a benchmark set in the UNITE campaign, and also launched an urgent web-based Alert to draw attention to the need to end violence against women and girls in the context of the global financial crisis, with an appeal for individual online donations made possible through a site hosted by the United Nations Foundation.

With regard to its future work, UNIFEM would continue efforts to bridge the implementation and accountability gap by supporting intensified country-level action through technical assistance; capacity development; broadened advocacy and awareness-raising initiatives; strengthened partnerships within and outside the UN system; improved monitoring and evaluation of programmes; and the provision of new learning and knowledge-sharing opportunities and products through its online global virtual knowledge centre on ending violence against women and girls, aimed at developing the capacity of country-level practitioners.

Communication. In a 9 March letter to the Secretary-General [A/63/755], Qatar transmitted the recommendations of the Colloquium on the impact of violence against women on the family (Doha, Qatar, 19–20 November 2008).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 65], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/64/433], adopted **resolution 64/137** without vote [agenda item 62 (a)].

Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 61/143 of 19 December 2006, 62/133 of 18 December 2007 and 63/155 of 18 December 2008, and all its previous resolutions on the elimination of violence against women,

Reaffirming the strong support expressed in its resolution 63/311 of 14 September 2009 for the consolidation of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Division for the Advancement of Women, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women into a composite entity, taking into account the existing mandates, which would be led by an Under-Secretary-General,

Reaffirming also the obligation of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and reaffirming further that discrimination on the basis of sex is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other international human rights instruments, and that its elimination is an integral part of efforts towards the elimination of all forms of violence against women,

Reaffirming further the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", and the declaration adopted at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming the international commitments in the field of social development and to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, as well as those made in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and at the 2005 World Summit,

Recalling Security Council resolutions 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000 and 1820(2008) of 19 June 2008 on women and peace and security, and welcoming the adoption of Council resolution 1882(2009) of 4 August 2009 on children and armed conflict and Council resolutions 1888(2009) of 30 September 2009 and 1889(2009) of 5 October 2009 on women and peace and security,

Welcoming Human Rights Council resolution 11/2 of 17 June 2009,

Recognizing that women's poverty and lack of empowerment, as well as their marginalization resulting from their exclusion from social policies and from the benefits of sustainable development, can place them at increased risk of violence, and that violence against women impedes the social and economic development of communities and States, as well as the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Deeply concerned about the pervasiveness of violence against women and girls in all its different forms and manifestations worldwide, and reiterating the need to intensify efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls throughout the world,

Stressing that States have the obligation to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including women and girls, and must exercise due diligence to prevent and investigate acts of violence against women and girls and punish the perpetrators, to eliminate impunity and to provide protection to the victims, and that failure to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Expressing its appreciation for the high number of activities undertaken by the United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, including by the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences, to eliminate all forms of violence against women, and welcoming the recent appointment of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General, submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 63/155;

2. *Calls upon* the international community, including the United Nations system and, as appropriate, regional and subregional organizations, to support national efforts to promote the empowerment of women and gender equality in order to enhance national efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls, including, upon request, in the development and implementation of national action plans on the elimination of violence against women and girls, through, inter alia, official development assistance and

other appropriate assistance, such as facilitating the sharing of guidelines, methodologies and best practices, and taking into account national priorities;

3. *Calls upon* all United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies and invites the Bretton Woods institutions to intensify their efforts at all levels to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls and to better coordinate their work, inter alia, through the Task Force on Violence against Women of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, and looks forward to the results of the ongoing work of the Task Force on composing a manual on joint programming, with a view to increasing effective support for national efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women;

4. *Expresses its appreciation* for the progress achieved in the Secretary-General's 2008–2015 campaign "UNITE to End Violence against Women", through the development of a framework for action outlining five key outcomes to be achieved by 2015, supported, inter alia, by the United Nations Development Fund for Women social mobilization and advocacy platform "Say NO to violence against women", the United Nations inter-agency initiative "Stop Rape Now: United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict" and the regional components of the campaign, stresses the need to accelerate implementation of concrete follow-up activities by the United Nations system to end all forms of violence against women, in close consultation with existing system-wide activities on violence against women, requests the Secretary-General to report on the basis of the results of his campaign, and encourages Member States to join forces in addressing the global pandemic of all forms of violence against women;

5. *Calls upon* the inter-agency Programme Appraisal Committee of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, in consultation with the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, to include in its next strategy for the Trust Fund ways and means to further enhance its effectiveness as a system-wide funding mechanism for preventing and redressing all forms of violence against women and girls and to give due consideration, inter alia, to the findings and recommendations of the external evaluation of the Trust Fund once finalized;

6. *Notes with concern* the growing gap between available funding in the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women and the funds required to meet the increasing demand, and urges States and other stakeholders, where possible, to significantly increase their voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund in order to meet the annual target of 100 million United States dollars by 2015 as set by the Secretary-General's campaign "UNITE to End Violence against Women", while expressing its appreciation for the contributions already made by States, the private sector and other donors to the Trust Fund;

7. *Stresses* that, within the United Nations system, adequate resources should be assigned to those bodies, specialized agencies, funds and programmes responsible for the promotion of gender equality and women's rights and to efforts throughout the United Nations system to eliminate violence against women and girls, calls upon

the United Nations system to make the necessary support and resources available in order to allow the Task Force on Violence against Women to undertake a resource flow analysis to assess the resources available for this work and elaborate recommendations for their most effective and efficient use, and also calls upon the United Nations system to respond swiftly to those recommendations once they have been issued;

8. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Secretary-General's database on violence against women, expresses its appreciation to all the States that have provided the database with information regarding, inter alia, their national policies and legal frameworks aimed at eliminating violence against women and supporting victims of such violence, strongly encourages all States to regularly provide updated information for the database, and calls upon all relevant entities of the United Nations system to continue to support States, at their request, in the compilation and regular updating of pertinent information and to raise awareness of the database among all relevant stakeholders, including civil society;

9. *Also welcomes* the adoption of an interim set of indicators to measure violence against women by the Statistical Commission at its fortieth session, and looks forward to the results of the ongoing work of the Commission on this topic;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to present an oral report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-fourth session, and thereafter to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session, with information provided by the United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, on recent follow-up activities to implement resolution 63/155 and the present resolution, including on the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, and urges United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to contribute promptly to that report.

Crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence

The intergovernmental expert group to review and update the Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Bangkok, 23–25 March) [E/CN.15/2010/2], convened in response to Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice decision 17/1 [YUN 2008, p. 1264], considered current developments and research on the matter. It also discussed the suggestions of 26 Member States with regard to potential changes and improvements to the Model Strategies and Practical Measures. Annexed to the report of the meeting was the text of the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures. The expert group recommended to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, for adoption at its 2010 session, a draft resolution on strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women.

Violence against women migrant workers

In response to General Assembly resolution 62/132 [YUN 2007, p. 1162], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/64/152] on violence against women migrant workers, which provided information on measures taken by 28 Member States with regard to adherence to international instruments; legislation and the justice system; policies; prevention measures and training; protection and assistance; data collection and research; and bilateral, regional, international and other cooperation. The report also reviewed activities undertaken by entities of the UN system and IOM to address the issue, particularly with regard to global legal and policy development and initiatives in support of national efforts.

The report noted an increase in the number of States parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, adopted by the Assembly in resolution 55/25 [YUN 2000, p. 1048], and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children [ibid., p. 1063]. The number of States parties to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, adopted by the Assembly in resolution 45/158 [YUN 1990, p. 594], also continued to increase. States indicated their adherence to regional instruments addressing violence against women and their adoption of a range of laws to protect women migrant workers from discrimination and violence and punish perpetrators.

Within the UN system, a number of conferences and meetings addressed issues related to women migrant workers. For example, the Durban Review Conference (see p. 657) to evaluate progress towards goals set by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance [YUN 2001, p. 615] addressed the situation of women domestic workers. At its 2010 session, the International Labour Conference would consider the issue of decent work for domestic workers with a view to setting international labour standards, including those that would help prevent violence against women migrant domestic workers. IOM's capacity-building activities for policymakers included a focus on the promotion of gender-sensitive migration policies and provided guidance on how countries of origin and destination could include gender analysis in their migration policies. UNIFEM supported the drafting of laws to promote and protect the rights of women migrant workers in a number of countries and organized or supported conferences and meetings among Government representatives and other stakeholders to raise awareness and exchange good practices. UNFPA initiated a project that aimed to prevent reproductive rights abuses and gender-based violence among

migrant women along the borders of 10 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The report concluded that violence against women migrant workers persisted, and women continued to be subjected to violence and have their rights violated at every stage of the migration cycle. Many of the efforts reported related to the development of laws and policies on gender equality, rather than specific measures to address violence against women migrant workers. While acknowledging that States had made efforts to collect data on gender and migration, specific data on violence against women migrant workers were needed, including on the different forms of violence, perpetrators and the context in which such violence took place.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 65], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/64/433], adopted **resolution 64/139** without vote [agenda item 62 (a)].

Violence against women migrant workers

The General Assembly,

Recalling all of its previous resolutions on violence against women migrant workers and those adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,

Reaffirming the provisions concerning women migrant workers contained in the outcome documents of the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the World Summit for Social Development and their reviews,

Noting with appreciation the various activities initiated by entities of the United Nations system, such as the Regional Programme on Empowering Women Migrant Workers in Asia of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the high-level panel discussion on the gender dimensions of international migration held by the Commission on the Status of Women at its fiftieth session, the discussions held by the Commission at its fifty-third session, during which it recognized the particular situation of women migrant domestic workers of all ages, and the general discussion on migrant domestic workers held by the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families at its eleventh session, and noting the contribution of the International Labour Organization through the development of the Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration, as well as other activities through which the plight of women migrant workers continues to be assessed and alleviated,

Recalling the discussions during the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held on 14 and 15 September 2006, which recognized, inter alia, the need for special protection for migrant women,

Taking note with appreciation of the United Nations Development Programme *Human Development Report 2009: Overcoming Barriers—Human Mobility and Development*, which discussed, inter alia, the need to protect women migrant workers from abuse, exploitation and violence,

Noting the decision of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office to include discussion of the issue of decent work for domestic workers in the agenda for the ninety-ninth session of the International Labour Conference in June 2010,

Recognizing the increasing participation of women in international migration, driven in large part by socio-economic factors, and that this feminization of migration requires greater gender sensitivity in all policies and efforts related to the subject of international migration,

Stressing the shared responsibility of all stakeholders, in particular countries of origin, transit and destination, relevant regional and international organizations, the private sector and civil society, in promoting an environment that prevents and addresses violence against women migrant workers, and in this regard recognizing the importance of joint and collaborative approaches and strategies at the national, bilateral, regional and international levels,

Recognizing that women migrant workers are important contributors to social and economic development, and underlining the value and dignity of their labour, including the labour of domestic workers,

Acknowledging the contribution that women migrant workers make to development through the economic benefits that accrue to both the country of origin and the country of destination,

Recognizing the particular vulnerability of women and their children at all stages of the migration process, extending from the moment of deciding to migrate, and including transit, engagement in formal and informal employment, and integration into the host society, as well as during their return to their countries of origin,

Expressing deep concern at the continuing reports of grave abuses and violence committed against migrant women and girls, including gender-based violence, in particular sexual violence, trafficking, domestic and family violence, racist and xenophobic acts, abusive labour practices and exploitative conditions of work,

Recognizing that the intersection of, inter alia, gender, age, class and ethnic discrimination and stereotypes can compound the discrimination faced by women migrant workers,

Reaffirming the commitment to protect and promote the human rights of all women, including, without discrimination, indigenous women who migrate for work, and in this regard noting the attention paid in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to the elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against indigenous women, as appropriate,

Concerned that many migrant women who are employed in the informal economy and in less skilled work are especially vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, underlining in this regard the obligation of States to protect the human rights of migrants so as to prevent abuse and exploitation, and observing with concern that many women migrant workers take on jobs for which they may be overqualified and in which, at the same time, they may be more vulnerable because of poor pay and inadequate social protection,

Emphasizing the need for objective, comprehensive and broad-based information, including sex- and age-disaggregated data and statistics, and gender-sensitive indicators for research and analysis, and a wide exchange of experience and lessons learned by individual Member States and civil society in the formulation of policies and concrete strategies to address the problem of violence against women migrant workers,

Realizing that the movement of a significant number of women migrant workers may be facilitated and made possible by means of fraudulent or irregular documentation and sham marriages with the object of migration, that this may be facilitated through, inter alia, the Internet, and that those women migrant workers are more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation,

Recognizing the importance of exploring the link between migration and trafficking in order to further efforts towards protecting women migrant workers from violence, discrimination, exploitation and abuse,

Encouraged by some measures adopted by some countries of destination to alleviate the plight of women migrant workers residing in their areas of jurisdiction, such as the establishment of protection mechanisms for migrant workers, facilitating their access to mechanisms for reporting complaints, or providing assistance during legal proceedings,

Underlining the important role of relevant United Nations treaty bodies in monitoring the implementation of human rights conventions and the relevant special procedures, within their respective mandates, in addressing the problem of violence against women migrant workers and in protecting and promoting their human rights and welfare,

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

2. *Encourages* Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to relevant International Labour Organization conventions and to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, as well as all human rights treaties that contribute to the protection of the rights of women migrant workers;

3. *Takes note* of the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences entitled "Political economy of women's human rights", submitted to the Council at its eleventh session, in particular her elaboration in that report of the current issues of the exploitation and violence that women migrants face in the context of the current global economic trends and crises;

4. *Encourages* all United Nations special rapporteurs on human rights whose mandates touch on the issues of violence against women migrant workers to improve the collection of information on and analysis of the current challenges facing women migrant workers, and also encourages Governments to cooperate with the special rapporteurs in this regard;

5. *Calls upon* all Governments to incorporate a human rights and gender perspective in legislation and policies on international migration and on labour and employment, consistent with their human rights obligations and commitments under human rights instruments, for the prevention of and protection of migrant women against violence and discrimination, exploitation and abuse, and to take effective measures to ensure that such migration and labour policies do not reinforce discrimination and bias against women;

6. *Calls upon* Governments to adopt or strengthen measures to protect the human rights of women migrant workers, regardless of their immigration status, including in policies that regulate the recruitment and deployment of women migrant workers, and to consider expanding dialogue among States on devising innovative methods to promote legal channels of migration, inter alia, in order to deter illegal migration;

7. *Urges* Governments to enhance bilateral, regional, interregional and international cooperation to address violence against women migrant workers, fully respecting international law, including international human rights law, as well as to strengthen efforts in reducing the vulnerability of women migrant workers, including by fostering sustainable development alternatives to migration in countries of origin;

8. *Also urges* Governments to take into account the best interests of the child, by adopting or strengthening measures to promote and protect the human rights of migrant girls, including unaccompanied girls, regardless of their immigration status, so as to prevent labour and economic exploitation, discrimination, sexual harassment, violence and sexual abuse in the workplace, including in domestic work;

9. *Further urges* Governments, in cooperation with international organizations, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and the private sector, to strengthen the focus on and funding support for the prevention of violence against women migrant workers, in particular by promoting the access of women to meaningful and gender-sensitive information and education on, inter alia, the costs and benefits of migration, rights and benefits to which they are entitled in the countries of origin and employment, overall conditions in countries of employment and procedures for legal migration, as well as to ensure that laws and policies governing recruiters, employers and intermediaries promote adherence to and respect for the human rights of migrant workers, particularly women;

10. *Encourages* all States to remove obstacles that may prevent the transparent, safe, unrestricted and expeditious transfer of remittances of migrants to their countries of origin or to any other countries, in conformity with applicable legislation, and to consider, as appropriate, measures to solve other problems that may impede women migrant workers' access to and management of their economic resources;

11. *Calls upon* Governments to recognize the right of women migrant workers, regardless of immigration status, to have access to emergency health care and in this regard to ensure that women migrant workers are not discriminated against on the grounds of pregnancy and childbirth;

12. *Urges* States that have not yet done so to adopt and implement legislation and policies that protect all women

migrant domestic workers, and to grant women migrant workers in domestic service access to transparent mechanisms for bringing complaints against employers, while stressing that such instruments should not punish women migrant workers, and calls upon States to promptly investigate and punish all violations;

13. *Calls upon* Governments, in cooperation with international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other stakeholders, to provide women migrant workers who are victims of violence with the full range of immediate assistance and protection, such as access to counselling, legal and consular assistance and temporary shelter, as well as mechanisms to allow the views and concerns of victims to be presented and considered at appropriate stages of proceedings, including other measures that will allow victims to be present during the judicial process, to the extent possible, as well as to establish reintegration and rehabilitation schemes for returning women migrant workers;

14. *Also calls upon* Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin and destination, to put in place penal and criminal sanctions in order to punish perpetrators of violence against women migrant workers and intermediaries, and redress and justice mechanisms that victims can access effectively, as well as to ensure that migrant women victims of violence do not suffer from re-victimization, including by authorities;

15. *Urges* all States to adopt effective measures to put an end to the arbitrary arrest and detention of women migrant workers and to take action to prevent and punish any form of illegal deprivation of the liberty of women migrant workers by individuals or groups;

16. *Encourages* Governments to formulate and implement training programmes for their law enforcers, immigration officers and border officials, diplomatic and consular officials, prosecutors and service providers, with a view to sensitizing those public-sector workers to the issue of violence against women migrant workers and imparting to them the necessary skills and attitude to ensure the delivery of proper, professional and gender-sensitive interventions;

17. *Calls upon* States, in accordance with the provisions of article 36 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, to ensure that, if a woman migrant worker is arrested or committed to prison or custody pending trial, or is detained in any other manner, competent authorities respect her freedom to communicate with and have access to the consular officials of the country of her nationality, and in this regard to inform without delay, if that woman migrant worker so requests, the consular post of her State of nationality;

18. *Invites* Governments, the United Nations system and other concerned intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to cooperate towards a better understanding of the issues concerning women and international migration, and to improve the collection, dissemination and analysis of sex- and age-disaggregated data and information in order to assist in the formulation of migration and labour policies that are, inter alia, gender-sensitive and that protect human rights, as well as to aid in policy assessment;

19. *Encourages* concerned Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin, transit and destination, to avail themselves of the expertise of the United Nations, including the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, to develop appropriate national data-collection and analysis methodologies that will generate comparable data and tracking and reporting systems on violence against women migrant workers;

20. *Notes with appreciation* the elaboration and adoption by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women of general recommendation No. 26, on women migrant workers, and calls upon States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to consider the recommendation;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session on the problem of violence against women migrant workers and on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account updated information from the organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as well as the reports of special rapporteurs that refer to the situation of women migrant workers and other relevant sources, such as the International Organization for Migration, including non-governmental organizations.

Women and armed conflict

Sexual violence and armed conflict

In response to Security Council resolution 1820(2008) [YUN 2008, p. 1265], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [S/2009/362] on the implementation of that resolution. The report determined that conflict environments, characterized by a breakdown in the rule of law and a climate of impunity, created the conditions whereby parties, State and non-State alike, emboldened by their weapons, power and status, enjoyed free reign to inflict sexual violence, with far-reaching implications for efforts to consolidate peace and secure development. Sexual violence prolonged conflict by creating a cycle of attack and counter-attack, fuelling insecurity and fear, which were among the causes of displacement, internally and across borders. It also restricted the ability of women to exercise their rights on the basis of equality with men and to participate in conflict resolution and peacebuilding. All countries that were transitioning to peace from conflicts in which sexual violence was a defining feature indicated that rape and other forms of sexual violence were major factors undermining early recovery and peacebuilding.

Addressing specific conflicts in which sexual violence was used to attack civilians and communities, including by targeting women and girls, the Secretary-General observed that commonalities had emerged that shed light on the nature and patterns of violations and the identity/affiliation and intent of their perpetrators. Examples were cited from conflicts in Afghanistan, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Côte d'Ivoire, Haiti, Myanmar, Nepal, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Uganda and the former Yugoslavia. Factors contributing to and exacerbating sexual violence included the absence of adequate measures to: prevent sexual violence and protect civilians; combat impunity for sexual violence; and address continuing discrimination against women and girls, in law and practice. The Secretary-General therefore proposed action in the areas of prevention and protection, impunity and assistance to victims that warranted renewed commitment from States and other parties to conflict in order to prevent and respond to sexual violence. In discussing UN efforts, he said that the Organization had to lead by example and drew attention to the development by DPKO of gender guidelines for military personnel in peacekeeping operations to facilitate the implementation of relevant Council resolutions.

The Secretary-General concluded that in bringing together available data, the report showed a disturbing picture of the use of sexual violence against civilians in armed conflicts and their aftermath. He stated that the continued leadership of the Council would be critical to significant progress on combating sexual violence, and made a series of recommendations for the Council's consideration. These included urging the Council to establish a commission of inquiry to investigate and report on violations of international humanitarian and human rights law and recommend to the Council the most effective mechanisms for ensuring accountability. He also requested a follow-up report to include a proposal for an appropriate Council mechanism or procedure to consider and act on information regarding measures taken by parties to armed conflict towards complying with their obligations under international law, and on the perpetrators of sexual violence.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 30 September [meeting 6195], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 1888(2009)**. The draft [S/2009/489] was submitted by 68 Member States.

The Security Council,

Reaffirming its commitment to the continuing and full implementation of resolutions 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000, 1612(2005) of 26 July 2005, 1674(2006) of 28 April 2006, 1820(2008) of 19 June 2008 and 1882(2009) of 4 August 2009 and all relevant statements by its President,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General of 15 July 2009, but remaining deeply concerned over the lack of progress on the issue of sexual violence in situations of armed conflict, in particular against women and children, notably against girls, and noting, as documented in the report of the Secretary-General, that sexual violence occurs in armed conflicts throughout the world,

Reiterating its deep concern that, despite its repeated condemnation of violence against women and children, including all forms of sexual violence in situations of armed conflict, and despite its calls addressed to all parties to armed conflict for the cessation of such acts with immediate effect, such acts continue to occur, and in some situations have become systematic or widespread,

Recalling the commitments contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action as well as those contained in 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", in particular those concerning women and armed conflict,

Reaffirming the obligations of States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto, and urging States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to them,

Recalling that international humanitarian law affords general protection to women and children as part of the civilian population during armed conflicts and special protection due to the fact that they can be placed particularly at risk,

Recalling also the responsibilities of States to end impunity and to prosecute those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and other egregious crimes perpetrated against civilians, and in this regard noting with concern that only limited numbers of perpetrators of sexual violence have been brought to justice, while recognizing that in conflict and in post-conflict situations national justice systems may be significantly weakened,

Reaffirming that ending impunity is essential if a society in conflict or recovering from conflict is to come to terms with past abuses committed against civilians affected by armed conflict and to prevent such abuses in the future, drawing attention to the full range of justice and reconciliation mechanisms to be considered, including national, international and "mixed" criminal courts and tribunals and truth and reconciliation commissions, and noting that such mechanisms can promote not only individual responsibility for serious crimes but also peace, truth, reconciliation and the rights of the victims,

Recalling the inclusion of a range of sexual violence offences in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the statutes of the ad hoc international criminal tribunals,

Stressing the necessity for all States and non-State parties to conflicts to comply fully with their obligations under applicable international law, including the prohibition on all forms of sexual violence,

Recognizing the need for civilian and military leaders, consistent with the principle of command responsibility, to demonstrate commitment and political will to prevent

sexual violence and to combat impunity and enforce accountability, and that inaction can send a message that the incidence of sexual violence in conflicts is tolerated,

Emphasizing the importance of addressing sexual violence issues from the outset of peace processes and mediation efforts, in order to protect populations at risk and promote full stability, in particular in the areas of pre-ceasefire humanitarian access and human rights agreements, ceasefires and ceasefire monitoring, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform arrangements, justice and reparations, and post-conflict recovery and development,

Noting with concern the underrepresentation of women in formal peace processes, the lack of mediators and ceasefire monitors with proper training in dealing with sexual violence and the lack of women as chief or lead peace mediators in United Nations-sponsored peace talks,

Recognizing that the promotion and empowerment of women and support for women's organizations and networks are essential in the consolidation of peace to promote the equal and full participation of women, and encouraging Member States, donors and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to provide support in this respect,

Welcoming the inclusion of women in peacekeeping missions in civil, military and police functions, and recognizing that women and children affected by armed conflict may feel more secure working with and reporting abuse to women in peacekeeping missions and that the presence of women peacekeepers may encourage local women to participate in the national armed and security forces, thereby helping to build a security sector that is accessible and responsive to all, especially women,

Welcoming also the efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat to develop gender guidelines for military personnel in peacekeeping operations to facilitate the implementation of resolutions 1325(2000) and 1820(2008), and operational guidance to assist civilian, military and police components of peacekeeping missions to effectively implement resolution 1820(2008),

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of 15 July 2009, and stressing that the present resolution does not seek to make any legal determination as to whether situations that are referred to in the report of the Secretary-General are or are not armed conflicts in the context of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto, of 1977, nor does it prejudge the legal status of the non-State parties involved in those situations,

Recalling its decision, in resolution 1882(2009), to expand the list of parties in situations of armed conflict engaged in the recruitment or use of children in violation of international law annexed to the annual report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict to also include those parties to armed conflict that engage, in contravention of applicable international law, in patterns of killing and maiming of children and/or rape and other sexual violence against children in situations of armed conflict,

Noting the role currently assigned to the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women to monitor the implementation of resolution

1325(2000) and to promote gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system, the empowerment of women and gender equality, and expressing the importance of effective coordination within the United Nations system in these areas,

Recognizing that States bear the primary responsibility to respect and ensure the human rights of their citizens, as well as all individuals within their territory, as provided for by relevant international law,

Reaffirming that parties to armed conflict bear the primary responsibility to take all feasible steps to ensure the protection of affected civilians,

Reiterating its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and, in this connection, its commitment to continue to address the widespread impact of armed conflict on civilians, including with regard to sexual violence,

1. *Reaffirms* that sexual violence, when used or commissioned as a tactic of war in order to deliberately target civilians or as a part of a widespread or systematic attack against civilian populations, can significantly exacerbate situations of armed conflict and may impede the restoration of international peace and security, affirms in this regard that effective steps to prevent and respond to such acts of sexual violence can significantly contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security, and expresses its readiness, when considering situations on the agenda of the Security Council, to take, where necessary, appropriate steps to address widespread or systematic sexual violence in situations of armed conflict;

2. *Reiterates its demand* for the complete cessation by all parties to armed conflict of all acts of sexual violence with immediate effect;

3. *Demands* that all parties to armed conflict immediately take appropriate measures to protect civilians, including women and children, from all forms of sexual violence, including measures such as enforcing appropriate military disciplinary measures and upholding the principle of command responsibility, training troops on the categorical prohibition of all forms of sexual violence against civilians, debunking myths that fuel sexual violence and vetting candidates for national armies and security forces to ensure the exclusion of those associated with serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, including sexual violence;

4. *Requests* that the Secretary-General appoint a Special Representative to provide coherent and strategic leadership, to work effectively to strengthen existing United Nations coordination mechanisms and to engage in advocacy efforts, inter alia, with Governments, including military and judicial representatives, as well as with all parties to armed conflict and civil society, in order to address, both at the headquarters and at the country levels, sexual violence in armed conflict, while promoting cooperation and coordination of efforts among all relevant stakeholders, primarily through the inter-agency initiative "United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict";

5. *Encourages* the entities constituting United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict, as well as other relevant parts of the United Nations system, to support the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General mentioned in paragraph 4 above and to continue

and enhance cooperation and information-sharing among all relevant stakeholders in order to reinforce coordination and avoid overlap at the headquarters and country levels and improve system-wide response;

6. *Urges* States to undertake comprehensive legal and judicial reforms, as appropriate, in conformity with international law, without delay and with a view to bringing perpetrators of sexual violence in conflicts to justice and to ensuring that survivors have access to justice, are treated with dignity throughout the justice process and are protected and receive redress for their suffering;

7. *Urges* all parties to conflict to ensure that all reports of sexual violence committed by civilians or by military personnel are thoroughly investigated and the alleged perpetrators brought to justice, and that civilian superiors and military commanders, in accordance with international humanitarian law, use their authority and powers to prevent sexual violence, including by combating impunity;

8. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to identify and take the appropriate measures to deploy rapidly a team of experts to situations of particular concern with respect to sexual violence in armed conflict, working through the United Nations presence on the ground and with the consent of the host Government, to assist national authorities to strengthen the rule of law, and recommends making use of existing human resources within the United Nations system and voluntary contributions, drawing upon requisite expertise, as appropriate, in the rule of law, civilian and military judicial systems, mediation, criminal investigation, security sector reform, witness protection, fair trial standards and public outreach to, inter alia:

(a) Work closely with national legal and judicial officials and other personnel in the civilian and military justice systems of the relevant Governments to address impunity, including by the strengthening of national capacity, and drawing attention to the full range of justice mechanisms to be considered;

(b) Identify gaps in national response and encourage a holistic national approach to address sexual violence in armed conflict, including by enhancing criminal accountability responsiveness to victims and judicial capacity;

(c) Make recommendations to coordinate domestic and international efforts and resources to reinforce the ability of the Government to address sexual violence in armed conflict;

(d) Work with the United Nations mission, country team and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General mentioned in paragraph 4 above, as appropriate, towards the full implementation of the measures called for in resolution 1820(2008);

9. *Encourages* States, relevant United Nations entities and civil society, as appropriate, to provide assistance, in close cooperation with national authorities, to build national capacity in the judicial and law enforcement systems in situations of particular concern with respect to sexual violence in armed conflict;

10. *Reiterates its intention*, when adopting or renewing targeted sanctions in situations of armed conflict, to consider including, where appropriate, designation criteria pertaining to acts of rape and other forms of sexual violence; and calls upon all peacekeeping and other relevant United Nations missions and United Nations bodies, in particu-

lar the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, to share with relevant Security Council sanctions committees, including through relevant monitoring groups and groups of experts of sanctions committees, all pertinent information about sexual violence;

11. *Expresses its intention* to ensure that resolutions to establish or renew peacekeeping mandates contain provisions, as appropriate, on the prevention of, and response to, sexual violence, with corresponding reporting requirements to the Council;

12. *Decides* to include specific provisions, as appropriate, for the protection of women and children from rape and other sexual violence in the mandates of United Nations peacekeeping operations, including, on a case-by-case basis, the identification of women's protection advisers among gender advisers and human rights protection units, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the need for, and the number and roles of, women's protection advisers is systematically assessed during the preparation of each United Nations peacekeeping operation;

13. *Encourages* States, with the support of the international community, to increase access to health care, psychosocial support, legal assistance and socio-economic reintegration services for victims of sexual violence, in particular in rural areas;

14. *Expresses its intention* to make better use of periodical field visits to conflict areas, through the organization of interactive meetings with the local women and women's organizations in the field about the concerns and needs of women in areas of armed conflict;

15. *Encourages* leaders at the national and local levels, including traditional leaders where they exist and religious leaders, to play a more active role in sensitizing communities on sexual violence to avoid marginalization and stigmatization of victims, to assist with their social reintegration and to combat a culture of impunity for these crimes;

16. *Urges* the Secretary-General, Member States and the heads of regional organizations to take measures to increase the representation of women in mediation processes and decision-making processes with regard to conflict resolution and peacebuilding;

17. *Urges* that issues of sexual violence be included in all United Nations-sponsored peace negotiation agendas, and also urges the inclusion of sexual violence issues from the outset of peace processes in such situations, in particular in the areas of pre-ceasefire humanitarian access and human rights agreements, ceasefires and ceasefire monitoring, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform arrangements, vetting of armed and security forces, justice and reparations and recovery/development;

18. *Reaffirms* the role of the Peacebuilding Commission in promoting inclusive gender-based approaches to reducing instability in post-conflict situations, noting the important role of women in rebuilding society, and urges the Commission to encourage all parties in the countries on its agenda to incorporate and implement measures to reduce sexual violence in post-conflict strategies;

19. *Encourages* Member States to deploy greater numbers of female military and police personnel to United Nations peacekeeping operations and to provide all military

and police personnel with adequate training to carry out their responsibilities;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that technical support is provided to troop- and police-contributing countries in order to include guidance for military and police personnel on addressing sexual violence in predeployment and induction training;

21. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue and strengthen efforts to implement the policy of zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations peacekeeping operations, and urges troop- and police-contributing countries to take appropriate preventative action, including predeployment and in-theatre awareness training, and other action to ensure full accountability in cases of such conduct involving their personnel;

22. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to continue to direct all relevant United Nations entities to take specific measures to ensure systematic mainstreaming of gender issues within their respective institutions, including by ensuring the allocation of adequate financial and human resources within all relevant offices and departments and on the ground, as well as to strengthen, within their respective mandates, their cooperation and coordination when addressing the issue of sexual violence in armed conflict;

23. *Urges* relevant Special Representatives of the Secretary-General and the Emergency Relief Coordinator, with strategic and technical support from the United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict network, to work with Member States to develop joint Government-United Nations comprehensive strategies to combat sexual violence, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, and to regularly provide updates on this in their standard reporting to Headquarters;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure more systematic reporting on the incidence of trends, emerging patterns of attack and early warning indicators of the use of sexual violence in armed conflict in all relevant reports to the Council, and encourages the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General, the Emergency Relief Coordinator, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences and the Chair(s) of United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict to provide to the Council, in coordination with the Special Representative mentioned in paragraph 4 above, additional briefings and documentation on sexual violence in armed conflict;

25. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to include, where appropriate, in his regular reports on individual peacekeeping operations, information on steps taken to implement measures to protect civilians, particularly women and children, against sexual violence;

26. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, taking into account the proposals contained in his report as well as any other relevant elements, to devise urgently and preferably within three months specific proposals on ways to ensure monitoring and reporting in a more effective and efficient way within the existing United Nations system on the protection of women and children from rape and other sexual violence in armed conflict and post-conflict situations, utilizing expertise from the United Nations system

and the contributions of national Governments, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations in their advisory capacity and various civil society actors, in order to provide timely, objective, accurate and reliable information on gaps in the response by United Nations entities, for consideration in taking appropriate action;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to submit annual reports to the Council on the implementation of resolution 1820(2008) and to submit by September 2010 his next report, on the implementation of the present resolution and resolution 1820(2008), to include, inter alia:

(a) A detailed coordination and strategy plan on the timely and ethical collection of information;

(b) Updates on efforts by United Nations mission focal points on sexual violence to work closely with the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator, the United Nations country team and, where appropriate, the Special Representative mentioned in paragraph 4 above and/or the team of experts mentioned in paragraph 8 above to address sexual violence;

(c) Information regarding parties to armed conflict that are credibly suspected of committing patterns of rape or other forms of sexual violence in situations that are on the agenda of the Council;

28. *Decides* to review, taking into account the process established by General Assembly resolution 63/311 of 14 September 2009 regarding a United Nations composite gender entity, the mandates of the Special Representative requested in paragraph 4 above and the team of experts requested in paragraph 8 above, within two years, and as appropriate thereafter;

29. *Decides also* to remain actively seized of the matter.

Women, peace and security

In response to a Security Council request contained in presidential statement S/PRST/2008/39 [YUN 2008, p. 1264] for a report on the implementation of resolution 1325(2000) [YUN 2000, p. 1113], the Secretary-General submitted a September report [S/2009/465 & Corr.1] on women, peace and security. He also reviewed progress made by key actors towards implementing resolution 1325(2000). The report drew on information provided by UN entities and reports of the Secretary-General to the Council.

Although much had been done in response to resolution 1325(2000), which called for the adoption of a gender perspective that would take into account the special needs of women during conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding, progress in its implementation was found to be limited. The Secretary-General had responded to the call in resolution 1325(2000) to increase the number of women in senior peacekeeping positions, with three women serving as Head of Mission and six serving as Deputy to the Head of Mission. There was also a need for a dedicated monitoring mechanism and a system to review progress and feedback of lessons learned from implementation of the resolution.

The Secretary-General proposed specific actions, including that Member States condemn violations of the rights of women and girls during armed conflict and take swift action in prosecuting those who committed gender-based violence in the context of armed conflict, and use all provisions under international law to address those crimes. Member States should also ensure the representation of women at all decision-making levels in accordance with resolution 1325(2000) and all actors involved in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding must make efforts to collect data on all aspects of the resolution. The Council should require that all country reports provide specific information on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls and use the commemoration of the tenth (2010) anniversary of resolution 1325(2000) to organize a high-level ministerial event to direct the attention of the international community towards implementing the resolution fully.

Communication. On 5 October [meeting 6196], the Council held an open debate on women and peace and security, and had before it a concept paper [S/2009/490] submitted by Viet Nam.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 5 October [meeting 6196], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 1889(2009)**. The draft [S/2009/500] was submitted by 21 Member States.

The Security Council,

Reaffirming its commitment to the continuing and full implementation, in a mutually reinforcing manner, of resolutions 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000, 1612(2005) of 26 July 2005, 1674(2006) of 28 April 2006, 1820(2008) of 19 June 2008, 1882(2009) of 4 August 2009 and 1888(2009) of 30 September 2009 and all relevant statements by its President,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and bearing in mind the primary responsibility of the Security Council under the Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security,

Recalling the resolve, expressed in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls and the obligations of States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto, recalling also the commitments contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action as well as those contained in 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”, in particular those concerning women and armed conflict,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of 16 September 2009, and stressing that the present resolution does not seek to make any legal determination as to whether situations that are referred to in the report of the Secretary-General are or are not armed conflicts in

the context of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto, of 1977, nor does it prejudice the legal status of the non-State parties involved in those situations,

Welcoming the efforts of Member States in implementing resolution 1325(2000) at the national level, including the development of national action plans, and encouraging Member States to continue to pursue such implementation,

Reiterating the need for the full, equal and effective participation of women at all stages of peace processes, given their vital role in the prevention and resolution of conflict and in peacebuilding, reaffirming the key role that women can play in re-establishing the fabric of recovering society, and stressing the need for their involvement in the development and implementation of post-conflict strategies in order to take into account their perspectives and needs,

Expressing deep concern about the underrepresentation of women at all stages of peace processes, in particular the very low numbers of women in formal roles in mediation processes, and stressing the need to ensure that women are appropriately appointed at decision-making levels, as high-level mediators, and in the composition of the mediators’ teams,

Remaining deeply concerned about the persistent obstacles to women’s full involvement in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and participation in post-conflict public life, as a result of violence and intimidation, lack of security and lack of rule of law, cultural discrimination and stigmatization, including the rise of extremist or fanatical views on women, and socio-economic factors, including the lack of access to education, and in this respect recognizing that the marginalization of women can delay or undermine the achievement of durable peace, security and reconciliation,

Recognizing the particular needs of women and girls in post-conflict situations, including physical security, health services, including reproductive and mental health, ways to ensure their livelihoods, land and property rights, employment, as well as their participation in decision-making and post-conflict planning, particularly at early stages of post-conflict peacebuilding,

Noting that despite progress, obstacles to strengthening the participation of women in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding remain, expressing concern that the capacity of women to engage in public decision-making and economic recovery often does not receive adequate recognition or financing in post-conflict situations, and underlining that funding for early recovery needs of women is vital to increase the empowerment of women, which can contribute to effective post-conflict peacebuilding,

Noting also that women in situations of armed conflict and post-conflict situations continue to be considered often as victims and not as actors in addressing and resolving situations of armed conflict, and stressing the need to focus not only on the protection of women but also on their empowerment in peacebuilding,

Recognizing that an understanding of the impact of situations of armed conflict on women and girls, including as refugees and internally displaced persons, adequate and rapid response to their particular needs and effective institutional arrangements to guarantee their protection and

full participation in the peace process, particularly at early stages of post-conflict peacebuilding, can significantly contribute to the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security,

Welcoming the United Nations initiative to develop a system similar to that pioneered by the United Nations Development Programme to allow decision-makers to track gender-related allocations in United Nations Development Group Multi-Donor Trust Funds,

Welcoming also the efforts of the Secretary-General to appoint more women to senior United Nations positions, particularly in field missions, as a tangible step towards providing United Nations leadership on implementation of resolution 1325(2000),

Welcoming further the upcoming establishment of a United Nations steering committee to enhance visibility and strengthen coordination within the United Nations system regarding the preparations for the tenth anniversary of resolution 1325(2000),

Encouraging relevant actors to organize events during the period 2009–2010 at the global, regional and national levels to increase awareness about resolution 1325(2000), including ministerial events, to renew commitments to “Women and peace and security” and to identify ways to address remaining and new challenges in implementing resolution 1325(2000) in the future,

1. *Urges* Member States and international and regional organizations to take further measures to improve the participation of women during all stages of peace processes, particularly in conflict resolution, post-conflict planning and peacebuilding, including by enhancing their engagement in political and economic decision-making at early stages of recovery processes, by, inter alia, promoting women’s leadership and capacity to engage in aid management and planning, supporting women’s organizations and countering negative societal attitudes about the capacity of women to participate equally;

2. *Reiterates its call* for all parties to armed conflicts to respect fully international law applicable to the rights and protection of women and girls;

3. *Strongly condemns* all violations of applicable international law committed against women and girls in situations of armed conflict and post-conflict situations, demands that all parties to conflicts cease such acts with immediate effect, and emphasizes the responsibility of all States to put an end to impunity and to prosecute those responsible for all forms of violence committed against women and girls in armed conflicts, including rape and other sexual violence;

4. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to develop a strategy, including through appropriate training, to increase the number of women appointed to pursue good offices on his behalf, particularly as Special Representatives and Special Envoys, and to take measures to increase the participation of women in United Nations political, peacebuilding and peacekeeping missions;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all country reports to the Security Council provide information on the impact of situations of armed conflict on women and girls, their particular needs in post-conflict situations and obstacles to meeting those needs;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that relevant United Nations bodies, in cooperation with Member States and civil society, collect data on, analyse and systematically assess the particular needs of women and girls in post-conflict situations, including information on their needs for physical security and participation in decision-making and post-conflict planning, in order to improve system-wide response to those needs;

7. *Expresses its intention*, when establishing and renewing the mandates of United Nations missions, to include provisions on the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women in post-conflict situations, requests the Secretary-General to continue, as appropriate, to appoint gender advisers and/or women’s protection advisers to United Nations missions, and asks them, in cooperation with United Nations country teams, to render technical assistance and improved coordination efforts to address recovery needs of women and girls in post-conflict situations;

8. *Urges* Member States to ensure gender mainstreaming in all post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery processes and sectors;

9. *Urges* Member States, United Nations bodies, donors and civil society to ensure that the empowerment of women is taken into account during post-conflict needs assessments and planning and factored into subsequent funding disbursements and programme activities, including by developing transparent analysis and tracking of funds allocated for addressing the needs of women in the post-conflict phase;

10. *Encourages* Member States in post-conflict situations, in consultation with civil society, including women’s organizations, to specify in detail the needs and priorities of women and girls and to design concrete strategies, in accordance with their legal systems, to address those needs and priorities, which cover, inter alia, support for greater physical security and better socio-economic conditions, through education, income-generating activities, access to basic services, in particular health services, including sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights and mental health, gender-responsive law enforcement and access to justice, as well as enhancing capacity to engage in public decision-making at all levels;

11. *Urges* Member States, United Nations bodies and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to take all feasible measures to ensure women and girls’ equal access to education in post-conflict situations, given the vital role of education in the promotion of women’s participation in post-conflict decision-making;

12. *Calls upon* all parties to armed conflicts to respect the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements and ensure the protection of all civilians inhabiting such camps, in particular women and girls, from all forms of violence, including rape and other sexual violence, and to ensure full, unimpeded and secure humanitarian access to them;

13. *Calls upon* all those involved in the planning for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration to take into account the particular needs of women and girls associated with armed forces and armed groups and their children, and provide for their full access to these programmes;

14. *Encourages* the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Support Office to continue to ensure systematic attention to and mobilization of resources for advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women as an integral part of post-conflict peacebuilding, and to encourage the full participation of women in this process;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in his agenda for action to improve the peacebuilding efforts of the United Nations, to take account of the need to improve the participation of women in political and economic decision-making from the earliest stages of the peacebuilding process;

16. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure full transparency, cooperation and coordination of efforts between the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on sexual violence and armed conflict whose appointment has been requested in resolution 1888(2009);

17. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Council within six months, for consideration, a set of indicators for use at the global level to track implementation of resolution 1325(2000), which could serve as a common basis for reporting by relevant United Nations entities, other international and regional organizations and Member States on the implementation of resolution 1325(2000) in 2010 and beyond;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in the report requested in the statement by the President of the Security Council of 23 October 2007, to also include a review of progress in the implementation of resolution 1325(2000), an assessment of the processes by which the Council receives, analyses and takes action on information pertinent to resolution 1325(2000), recommendations on further measures to improve coordination across the United Nations system and with Member States and civil society to deliver implementation, and data on the participation of women in United Nations missions;

19. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Council within twelve months on addressing women's participation and inclusion in peacebuilding and planning in the aftermath of conflict, taking into consideration the views of the Peacebuilding Commission and including, inter alia:

(a) An analysis of the particular needs of women and girls in post-conflict situations;

(b) Challenges to the participation of women in conflict resolution and peacebuilding and gender mainstreaming in all early post-conflict planning, financing and recovery processes;

(c) Measures to support national capacity in planning for and financing responses to the needs of women and girls in post-conflict situations;

(d) Recommendations for improving international and national responses to the needs of women and girls in post-conflict situations, including the development of effective financial and institutional arrangements to guarantee the full and equal participation of women in the peacebuilding process;

20. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

Communications. In identical letters of 6 October to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President [A/64/483-S/2009/512], Malta stated that it supported the overall thrust of resolution 1889(2009), but wished to register its reservations about the reference in paragraph 10 to “health services, including sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights”, for reasons related to the question of abortion.

Women in power and decision-making

Mainstreaming gender into national policies and programmes

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/9 [YUN 2006, p. 1356], the Commission on the Status of Women considered progress on mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes. At its March session [E/2009/27], the Commission's priority theme was “The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS” (see p. 1129).

2010 ECOSOC thematic discussion

On 20 April, the Economic and Social Council decided that “Current global and national trends and challenges and their impact on gender equality and empowerment of women” would be the topic for the thematic discussion of the high-level segment of its 2010 substantive session (**decision 2009/210**).

Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women

Inter-Agency Network. The United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE), at its eighth annual session (New York, 24–26 February) [IANWGE/2009/Report], discussed matters for consideration by the High-Level Committees on Programme and on Management of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, including: UN reform; preparations for the fifteenth anniversaries of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing Conference) [YUN 1995, p. 1170] and the United Nations Conference on Population and Development (Cairo Conference) [YUN 1994, p. 955]; the outcome of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus [YUN 2008, p. 1076] in the context of economic crises and their gender impacts; review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of the Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions

1997/2 [YUN 1997, p. 1186] on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the UN system; and operationalization of the system-wide policy and strategy on gender mainstreaming. The session heard oral briefings on those topics by representatives of UN entities. Presentations on new and emerging issues dealt with the gender impact of the food crisis and gender aspects of climate change, among other matters.

IANWGE decided to develop a system-wide strategy on capacity development on gender mainstreaming in order to improve the understanding of gender issues by UN system staff and harmonize system-wide interventions on gender mainstreaming. It would also contribute to the fifteen-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. Further, the Network closed the Task Force on Gender Mainstreaming in Results-Based Management Systems and set up a new task force on the gender impacts of the financial and economic crises. It also decided to intensify its work in preparation for a system-wide action plan of activities, events and initiatives for the fifteenth anniversaries of the Beijing Conference and the Cairo Conference and intensify preparatory work towards the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325(2000) on women and peace and security [YUN 2000, p. 1113].

Report of Secretary-General. In response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2008/34 [YUN 2008, p. 1269], the Secretary-General submitted a May report [E/2009/71] on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all UN system policies and programmes. The report was based on the responses of 38 UN entities to an IANWGE-approved questionnaire. It also updated information on actions taken to implement paragraph 4 of Council resolution 2006/36 [YUN 2006, p. 1350] and paragraph 19 of Council resolution 2006/9 [ibid., p. 1356].

A persistent area of weakness with regard to accountability was the slow development of a common tool for assessing progress and gaps, which made it difficult to compare and evaluate progress throughout the system. Although the Secretariat had instituted a criterion of “respect for diversity/gender” as part of the performance indicators for all staff, it was not consistently applied. As to financial and human resources for gender mainstreaming, entities reported that budgetary restraints and lack of funding hindered their abilities to meet goals on integrating gender perspectives. Most entities reported using results-based management frameworks to improve gender mainstreaming and narrow the gap between policy and practice. They were also increasingly setting concrete targets to be monitored at the country level and using sex-

disaggregated data and gender-sensitive indicators in materials disseminated to policymakers and the public. In the context of unifying evaluation methodologies, several entities reported their participation in working groups of the United Nations Evaluation Group, which was preparing an overview of institutional practices regarding management response to evaluation in order to standardize approaches towards mainstreaming a gender perspective in evaluations. However, the efforts of individual entities suggested a variety of approaches without an emerging unified approach to the development of methodologies, and that constrained the ability of the UN system to make progress in closing gaps in gender mainstreaming. On the implementation of resolution 2006/36, the report found that an effective programme on gender equality had yet to be established, although the commitment to gender mainstreaming training had evolved, including in core competence development programmes. Progress was also made towards developing gender mainstreaming training for different categories of staff, including management, and on making such training mandatory for all staff. The report stated that a gender scorecard was being developed through consultation between the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI), the Department of Management and the Office of Human Resources Management (OHRM). In addition, OHRM was working with OSAGI to develop revised gender balance targets for the 2009–2010 human resources action plans.

Recommendations included: strengthening of the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of progress, and identifying gaps by using common methods and indicators; increasing the use of electronic means to provide capacity development for managers and staff, including mandatory staff training; ensuring that all field offices and headquarters had gender focal points and specialists; ensuring operationalization of the system-wide policy and strategy on gender mainstreaming; using existing training institutions to assist entities in developing unified training modules on gender mainstreaming; and using all avenues, including the Secretary-General’s campaign to end violence against women, to strengthen inter-agency collaboration for gender mainstreaming.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 28 July [meeting 40], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2009/12** [draft: E/2009/L.20] without vote [agenda item 7 (e)].

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

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming its agreed conclusions 1997/2 of 18 July 1997 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all poli-

cies and programmes in the United Nations system, and recalling its resolutions 2001/41 of 26 July 2001, 2002/23 of 24 July 2002, 2003/49 of 24 July 2003, 2004/4 of 7 July 2004, 2005/31 of 26 July 2005, 2006/36 of 27 July 2006, 2007/33 of 27 July 2007 and 2008/34 of 25 July 2008,

Reaffirming also the commitment made at the 2005 World Summit to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres and to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender,

Reaffirming further that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for achieving gender equality and constitutes a critical strategy in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,

Taking into consideration the theme for the 2010 annual ministerial review of the Economic and Social Council, “Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women”,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General and the recommendations contained therein, and calls for further and continued efforts to mainstream a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations in accordance with all relevant Economic and Social Council resolutions;

2. *Requests* the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality to continue to provide practical support in gender mainstreaming to its members;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2010 a detailed report on progress made by United Nations entities in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all policies and programmes and in capacity development, including through mandatory training for all staff and personnel and specific training for senior managers, as a critical means of raising their awareness, knowledge, commitment and competencies, as well as with regard to collaborative efforts to ensure effective gender mainstreaming in the United Nations system.

Strengthening of UN gender equality architecture

During 2009, United Nations efforts towards strengthening the gender architecture of the Organization continued. The Co-Chairs of the High-level Panel on UN System-wide Coherence (see p. 1367) convened six meetings on gender between March and June, at which Member State delegations and representatives of UN bodies discussed ways to advance the work on gender architecture reform that had been undertaken by the General Assembly.

Institutional options papers. By a 13 March letter, the General Assembly President transmitted to Member States a document entitled “Further Details on Institutional Options for Strengthening the Institutional Arrangements for Support to Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women”, which was prepared by the Secretary-General in response to Assembly resolution 62/277 [YUN 2008, p. 1516]. The document described the four potential approaches to strengthening the UN gender equality architecture. The first option—the status quo—received limited coverage, as analysis confirmed it would be the least effective in eliminating fragmentation or providing a single driver and voice for the UN system on gender equality. The second option would involve the establishment of a fund/programme by the Assembly that would be separately administered and funded. It would partially consolidate the existing four gender-focused entities: OSAGI, DAW, UNIFEM and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), with the exception of those staff resources that provided support to intergovernmental bodies. The third option envisioned a UN Secretariat department on gender equality and women’s empowerment that would consolidate the four gender-focused entities. The fourth option—the composite entity—would combine Headquarters policy and normative support functions currently performed by departments with the country-level operational and technical support characteristic of Funds and Programmes. The last option received particular attention as many Member States had expressed interest in it during informal consultations.

The document concluded that the composite entity had the greatest potential to consolidate the strengths and experiences of the four existing gender-specific entities and create synergy between operational work and normative and policy development functions. It would bring together the normative inputs of the Commission on the Status of Women and other intergovernmental bodies with a strengthened operational component overseen by an Executive Board dedicated to gender equality and women’s empowerment. It would also ensure a link between the consideration of gender mainstreaming in the intergovernmental sphere and in operational activities.

By a 4 June letter, the Assembly President transmitted to Member States a document entitled “Consolidated response regarding questions raised following discussions of the paper ‘Further Details on Institutional Options for Strengthening the Institutional Arrangements for Support to Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women’”, which was prepared by the Secretary-General in response to questions raised by Member States at a working-level interactive meeting on 15 April. The document further addressed the proposed structure, governance, staffing and funding

for a new gender-specific entity and the relationships between it and intergovernmental bodies.

Reports of Co-Chairs. By a 19 June letter, the Co-Chairs on system-wide coherence transmitted to Member States an executive summary that reflected the state of discussions on strengthening the institutional arrangements for the support of gender equality and the empowerment of women. The summary noted that the establishment of a composite entity remained the most promising option for the United Nations to meet its mandate in that regard. The proposed entity would have the same flexibility as other UN operational entities to provide an effective response to countries' requests. It would service all countries, while establishing a strategic and cost-effective field presence as its resources grew. After considering the views of Member States, the Co-Chairs recommended that the Assembly take action at its sixty-third session in 2009. They recognized, however, that two areas required further discussion: the funding sources for the new entity from UN regular resources and voluntary sources; and the intergovernmental oversight mechanisms for the new gender entity. In that context, the Co-Chairs would hold meetings in order to find common ground for the establishment of the new entity.

In a 7 August letter, the Co-Chairs again recommended that the Assembly decide at its sixty-third session on the establishment of a composite gender entity that built on the existing four entities, while consolidating them into one that would perform the functions outlined in the relevant reports of the Secretary-General. Regarding the intergovernmental oversight mechanisms for the proposed new entity, there was general consensus that the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, including the Commission on the Status of Women, would remain the overarching normative and policymaking bodies. As regards the intergovernmental oversight mechanism for operational activities, the Co-Chairs sensed an emerging recognition that a decision on an executive board to oversee the entity's organizational work in a manner similar to that established in Assembly resolution 48/162 [YUN 1993, p. 1118] was important in order to achieve appropriate oversight and guidance during the entity's transitional period. Should the Assembly decide to create the composite entity, a transitional arrangement was envisaged to ensure the necessary leadership and preparatory work throughout the establishment process. During such a period, the existing entities would continue to carry out their mandates.

In **resolution 63/311** (see p. 1368), the Assembly strongly supported the consolidation of OSAGI, DAW, UNIFEM and INSTRAW into a composite entity, taking into account the existing mandates. It also supported that the entity would be led by an Under-Secretary-General, who would report directly to the Secretary-General. It requested the Secretary-General

to produce, for the Assembly's consideration at its sixty-fourth session, a proposal specifying the mission statement, funding, and organizational arrangements of the composite entity so that intergovernmental negotiations could commence.

Women and human rights

Division for the Advancement of Women and OHCHR activities

During the year, cooperation continued between DAW and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) with the goal of achieving equality between women and men and promoting and protecting women's human rights. In December, the Secretary-General transmitted a report [A/HRC/13/70-E/CN.6/2010/7] on implementation of the 2009 joint workplan of DAW and OHCHR, which summarized the major activities carried out and presented the 2010 joint workplan.

Palestinian women

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2008/11 [YUN 2008, p. 514], a report of the Secretary-General [E/CN.6/2009/5] reviewed the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women from October 2007 to September 2008 (see p. 473).

On 28 July, the Council took action on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women in **resolution 2009/14** (see p. 474).

The girl child

In response to General Assembly resolution 62/140 [YUN 2007, p. 1173], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/64/315] on the girl child, which reviewed international obligations and commitments with respect to the girl child, stemming from human rights treaties and international conferences, as well as legal and policy developments. The report addressed progress and challenges with respect to discrimination against the girl child in the areas of: poverty and the impact of crises; preventing abuse, exploitation and violence; protecting girls in conflict situations and humanitarian crises; promoting girls' education; promoting human rights education; improving water, sanitation and hygiene; combating HIV/AIDS; girls' participation in policy and practice; improving the health status of the girl child; and UN collaboration in support of the girl child. The report also described efforts to support the abandonment of female genital mutilation.

The Assembly took note of the Secretary-General's report on 18 December (**decision 64/532**).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 65], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/64/435 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 64/145** without vote [agenda item 65 (a)].

The girl child

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 62/140 of 18 December 2007 and all relevant resolutions, including the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women, in particular those relevant to the girl child,

Reaffirming the equal rights of women and men as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling all human rights and other instruments relevant to the rights of the child, in particular the girl child, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocols thereto,

Welcoming the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the specific attention paid therein to the fact that women and girls with disabilities are subject to multiple discrimination, including in education and schooling,

Reaffirming the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, as well as the commitments relevant to the girl child made at the 2005 World Summit,

Recalling the Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages,

Reaffirming the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled “A world fit for children”, the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS adopted at the twenty-sixth special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, entitled “Global Crisis—Global Action”, and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS of 2006,

Reaffirming also all other relevant outcomes of major United Nations summits and conferences relevant to the girl child, as well as their five- and ten-year reviews, including the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and the declaration adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-ninth session in 2005, as well as the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission at its fifty-first session, at which it considered “The elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child” as its priority theme,

Looking forward to the fifteen-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the review of the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, emphasizing the sharing of experiences and good practices, with a view to overcoming remaining

obstacles and new challenges, including those related to the Millennium Development Goals, which will take place during the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, in 2010,

Reaffirming the Dakar Framework for Action, adopted at the World Education Forum in 2000,

Welcoming the appointment of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children, the creation of the new post of Special Representative of the Secretary-General on sexual violence in conflict and the launch of the Secretary-General’s 2008–2015 campaign “UNITE to End Violence against Women”,

Recognizing that chronic poverty remains the single biggest obstacle to meeting the needs of and promoting and protecting the rights of children and that urgent national and international action is therefore required to eliminate it, and noting that the burden of the global financial and economic crisis, the energy crisis, the food crisis and the continuing food insecurity as a result of various factors is felt directly by households, especially those depending on income from the informal sector, and particularly by women and girls,

Recognizing also that girl children are often at greater risk of being exposed to and encountering various forms of discrimination and violence, which continue to hinder efforts towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and reaffirming the need to achieve gender equality to ensure a just and equitable world for girls, including through partnering with men and boys, as an important strategy for advancing the rights of the girl child,

Recognizing further that progress has been made in the passage of national legislation that affirms the equality of girls and boys and that corresponding measures have not been taken to effectively implement such legislation, and recognizing the continuing existence of discrimination against women and girls throughout the world and that addressing this situation will require additional efforts to strengthen policy implementation, including through international cooperation,

Recognizing that the empowerment of girls is key in breaking the cycle of discrimination and violence and in promoting and protecting the full and effective enjoyment of their human rights, and further recognizing that empowering girls requires the active support and engagement of their parents, legal guardians, families, boys and men, as well as the wider community,

Deeply concerned about all forms of violence against children, in particular about phenomena that disproportionately affect girls, such as commercial sexual exploitation and child pornography, child and forced marriage, rape and domestic violence, and, in addition, about the corresponding lack of accountability and impunity, which reflect discriminatory norms reinforcing the lower status of girls in society,

Deeply concerned also about discrimination against the girl child and the violation of the rights of the girl child, which often result in less access for girls to education, and to quality education, nutrition and physical and mental health care, in girls enjoying fewer of the rights, opportunities and benefits of childhood and adolescence than boys, and in leaving them more vulnerable than boys to the consequences of unprotected and premature sexual relations

and often being subjected to various forms of cultural, social, sexual and economic exploitation and violence, abuse, rape, incest, honour-related crimes and harmful traditional practices, such as female infanticide, child and forced marriages, prenatal sex selection and female genital mutilation,

Deeply concerned further that female genital mutilation violates and impairs the full enjoyment of the human rights of women and girls and that it is an irreparable and irreversible harmful practice that affects between 100 million and 140 million women and girls alive today, and that each year over 3 million girls are at risk of undergoing the harmful procedure,

Deeply concerned that the goal of ending female genital mutilation by 2010, set out in the document entitled "A world fit for children", will go unmet,

Deeply concerned also that, in situations of poverty, war and armed conflict, girl children are among those most affected and furthermore become the victims of sexual violence, abuse and exploitation and sexually transmitted infections and diseases, including HIV and AIDS, which have a serious impact on the quality of their lives and leave them open to further discrimination, violence and neglect, thus limiting their potential for full development,

Emphasizing that increased access to education, including in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, for young people, especially girls, dramatically lowers their vulnerability to preventable diseases, in particular HIV infection and sexually transmitted diseases,

Concerned by the increasing number of child-headed households, in particular those headed by orphaned girls, including those orphaned by the HIV and AIDS pandemic,

Deeply concerned that early childbearing and limited access to sexual and reproductive health care, including in the area of emergency obstetric care, causes high levels of obstetric fistula and maternal mortality and morbidity,

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

Recognizing that early childbearing continues to be an impediment to the improvement of the educational and social status of girls in all parts of the world and that, overall, child and forced marriages and early motherhood can severely curtail their educational opportunities and are likely to have a long-term, adverse impact on their employment opportunities and on their and their children's quality of life,

Noting with concern that in some areas of the world men outnumber women as a result, in part, of harmful attitudes and practices, such as female genital mutilation, son preference, which results in female infanticide and prenatal sex selection, early marriage, including child marriage, violence against women, sexual exploitation, sexual abuse and discrimination against girls in food allocation and in other practices related to health and well-being, resulting in fewer girls than boys surviving into adulthood,

Taking note with appreciation of the adoption of the Rio de Janeiro Declaration and Call for Action to Prevent and Stop Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, which is the outcome document of the Third World Con-

gress against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 25 to 28 November 2008,

1. *Stresses* the need for full and urgent implementation of the rights of the girl child as provided to her under human rights instruments, and urges States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocols thereto as a matter of priority;

2. *Urges* all States that have not yet signed and ratified or acceded to the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), of the International Labour Organization to consider doing so;

3. *Urges* all Governments and the United Nations system to strengthen efforts bilaterally and with international organizations and private sector donors in order to achieve the goals of the World Education Forum, in particular that of eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005, which have not been fully met, and to implement the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative as a means of reaching this goal, and calls for the implementation of and reaffirms the commitments contained in the Education for All goals and the Millennium Development Goals, particularly those related to gender and education;

4. *Calls upon* all States to place enhanced emphasis on quality education for the girl child, including catch-up and literacy education for those who did not receive formal education, to promote access to skills and entrepreneurial training for young women and to tackle male and female stereotypes in order to ensure that young women entering the labour market have opportunities to obtain full and productive employment and decent work;

5. *Calls upon* States and the international community to recognize the right to education on the basis of equal opportunity and non-discrimination by making primary education compulsory and available free to all children, ensuring that all children have access to education of good quality, as well as making secondary education generally available and accessible to all, in particular through the progressive introduction of free education, bearing in mind that special measures to ensure equal access, including affirmative action, contribute to achieving equal opportunity and combating exclusion, and ensuring school attendance, in particular for girls and children from low-income families;

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

7. *Calls upon* all States and international and non-governmental organizations, individually and collectively, to implement further the Beijing Platform for Action, in particular the strategic objectives relating to the girl child, and the further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and to mobilize all necessary resources and support in order to achieve the goals and strategic objectives and actions set out in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

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

9. *Urges* States to strengthen efforts to urgently eradicate all forms of discrimination against women and girls, and, where applicable, to remain dedicated to the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto;

10. *Also urges* States to fulfil the pledges that they made at the Fourth World Conference on Women and at the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly to modify or abolish remaining laws that discriminate against women and girls;

11. *Further urges* States to improve the situation of girl children living in poverty, deprived of nutrition, water and sanitation facilities, with limited or no access to basic physical and mental health-care services, shelter, education, participation and protection, taking into account that, while a severe lack of goods and services hurts every human being, it is most threatening and harmful to the girl child, leaving her unable to enjoy her rights, to reach her full potential and to participate as a full member of society;

12. *Urges* States to ensure that the applicable requirements of the International Labour Organization for the employment of girls and boys are respected and effectively enforced and that girls who are employed have equal access to decent work, and equal payment and remuneration, are protected from economic exploitation, discrimination, sexual harassment, violence and abuse in the workplace, are aware of their rights and have access to formal and non-formal education, skills development and vocational training, and further urges States to develop gender-sensitive measures, including national action plans, where appropriate, to eliminate the worst forms of child labour, including commercial sexual exploitation, slavery-like practices, forced and bonded labour, trafficking and hazardous forms of child labour;

13. *Calls upon* States to take all measures necessary to ensure the right of girls to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, including sexual and reproductive health, and to develop sustainable health systems and social services;

14. *Urges* all States to promote gender equality and equal access to basic social services, such as education, nutrition, birth registration, health care, including sexual and reproductive health, vaccinations and protection from diseases representing the major causes of mortality, and to mainstream a gender perspective in all development policies and programmes, including those relating to children as well as those specific to the girl child;

15. *Calls upon* States to take appropriate measures to address the root factors of child and forced marriages, including by undertaking educational activities to raise awareness regarding the negative aspects of such practices,

and to strengthen existing legislation and policies with a view to providing better promotion and protection of the rights of the child, in particular the girl child;

16. *Urges* all States to enact and strictly enforce laws to ensure that marriage is only entered into with the free and full consent of the intending spouses, and, in addition, to enact and strictly enforce laws concerning the minimum legal age of consent and the minimum age for marriage and raise the minimum age for marriage where necessary, and to develop and implement comprehensive policies, plans of action and programmes for the survival, protection, development and advancement of the girl child in order to promote and protect the full enjoyment of her human rights and to ensure equal opportunities for girls, including by making such plans an integral part of her total development process;

17. *Calls upon* States, with the support of international organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to generate social support for the enforcement of laws on the minimum legal age for marriage, in particular by providing educational opportunities for girls;

18. *Also calls upon* States, with the support of international organizations, civil society and non-governmental organizations, as appropriate, to develop policies and programmes, giving priority to formal and informal education programmes that support girls and enable them to acquire knowledge, develop self-esteem and take responsibility for their own lives, and to place special focus on programmes to educate women and men, especially parents, about the importance of girls' physical and mental health and well-being, including the elimination of discrimination against girls in child and forced marriages;

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

20. *Urges* States to complement punitive measures with educational activities designed to promote a process of consensus towards the abandonment of harmful practices such as female genital mutilation and to provide appropriate services for those affected by the practices;

21. *Calls upon* all States to enact and enforce the necessary legislative or other measures, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, to prevent the distribution over the Internet of child pornography, including depictions of child sexual abuse, ensuring that adequate mechanisms are in place to enable reporting and removal of such material and that its creators, distributors and collectors are prosecuted as appropriate;

22. *Urges* States to formulate comprehensive, multi-disciplinary and coordinated national plans, programmes or strategies to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, which should be widely disseminated and should provide targets and timetables for implementation, as well as effective domestic enforce-

ment procedures through the establishment of monitoring mechanisms involving all parties concerned, including consultations with women's organizations, giving attention to the recommendations relating to the girl child of the Special Rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences, and on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, of the Secretary-General in his in-depth study on all forms of violence against women and of the independent expert in his study on violence against children;

23. *Also urges* States to ensure that the right of children to express themselves and to participate in all matters affecting them, in accordance with their age and maturity, is fully and equally enjoyed by girls;

24. *Further urges* States to involve girls, including girls with special needs, and their representative organizations, in decision-making processes, as appropriate, and to include them as full and active partners in identifying their own needs and in developing, planning, implementing and assessing policies and programmes to meet those needs;

25. *Recognizes* that a considerable number of girl children are particularly vulnerable, including orphans, children living on the street, internally displaced and refugee children, children affected by trafficking and sexual and economic exploitation, children living with HIV and AIDS, and children who are incarcerated who live without parental support, and therefore urges States, with the support of the international community, where relevant, to take appropriate measures to address the needs of such children by implementing national policies and strategies to build and strengthen governmental, community and family capacities to provide a supportive environment for such children, including by providing appropriate counselling and psychosocial support, and ensuring their enrolment in school and access to shelter, good nutrition and health and social services on an equal basis with other children;

26. *Encourages* States to promote actions, including through bilateral and multilateral technical cooperation and financial assistance, for the social reintegration of children in difficult situations, in particular girls, considering, inter alia, views, skills and capacities that those children have developed in the conditions in which they lived and, where appropriate, with their meaningful participation;

27. *Urges* all States and the international community to respect, promote and protect the rights of the girl child, taking into account the particular vulnerabilities of the girl child in pre-conflict, conflict and post-conflict situations, and further urges States to take special measures for the protection of girls, in particular to protect them from sexually transmitted infections, including HIV infection, gender-based violence, including rape, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation, torture, abduction and forced labour, paying special attention to refugee and displaced girls, and to take into account their special needs in the delivery of humanitarian assistance and disarmament, demobilization, rehabilitation assistance and reintegration processes;

28. *Deplores* all cases of sexual exploitation and abuse of women and children, especially girls, in humanitarian crises, including those cases involving humanitarian workers and peacekeepers, and urges States to take effective measures to address gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies and to make all possible efforts to ensure

that their laws and institutions are adequate to prevent, promptly investigate and prosecute acts of gender-based violence;

29. *Also deplores* all acts of sexual exploitation, abuse of and trafficking in women and children by military, police and civilian personnel involved in United Nations operations, welcomes the efforts undertaken by United Nations agencies and peacekeeping operations to implement a zero-tolerance policy in this regard, and requests the Secretary-General and personnel-contributing countries to continue to take all appropriate action necessary to combat these abuses by such personnel, including through the full implementation without delay of those measures adopted in the relevant General Assembly resolutions based on recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations;

30. *Calls upon* Member States to devise, enforce and strengthen effective child- and youth-sensitive measures to combat, eliminate and prosecute all forms of trafficking in women and girls, including for sexual and economic exploitation, as part of a comprehensive anti-trafficking strategy within wider efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, including by taking effective measures against the criminalization of girls who are victims of exploitation and ensuring that girls who have been exploited receive access to the necessary psychosocial support;

31. *Calls upon* Governments, civil society, including the media, and non-governmental organizations to promote human rights education and full respect for and the enjoyment of the human rights of the girl child, inter alia, through the translation, production and dissemination of age-appropriate and gender-sensitive information material on those rights to all sectors of society, in particular to children;

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

33. *Requests* all human rights treaty bodies and the human rights mechanisms of the Human Rights Council, including the special procedures, to adopt regularly and systematically a gender perspective in the implementation of their mandates and to include in their reports information on the qualitative analysis of violations of the human rights of women and girls, and encourages the strengthening of cooperation and coordination in that regard;

34. *Requests* States to ensure that, in all policies and programmes designed to provide comprehensive HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support, particular

attention and support is given to the girl child at risk, infected with or affected by HIV, including pregnant girls and young and adolescent mothers, as part of the global effort to scale up significantly towards achieving the goal of universal access to comprehensive prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010;

35. *Invites* States to promote initiatives aimed at reducing the prices of antiretroviral drugs, especially second-line drugs, available to the girl child, including bilateral and private sector initiatives as well as initiatives on a voluntary basis taken by groups of States, including those based on innovative financing mechanisms that contribute to the mobilization of resources for social development, including those that aim to provide further access to drugs at affordable prices to developing countries on a sustainable and predictable basis, and in this regard takes note of the International Drug Purchase Facility, UNITAID;

36. *Calls upon* all States to integrate food and nutritional support with the goal that children, especially girl children, have access at all times to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences, for an active and healthy life, as part of a comprehensive response to HIV and AIDS and other communicable diseases;

37. *Urges* States and the international community to increase resources at all levels, particularly in the education and health sectors, to enable young people, especially girls, to gain the knowledge, attitudes and skills that they need to prevent HIV infection and early pregnancy and to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health;

38. *Stresses* the need to strengthen the commitment of States and the United Nations system in their responsibility to mainstream the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, in particular the girl child, in the development agenda at the national and international levels;

39. *Urges* States, the international community, the relevant United Nations entities, civil society and international financial institutions to continue to actively support, through the allocation of increased financial resources, targeted innovative programmes that address ending female genital mutilation and developing and providing education programmes, such as the United Nations Population Fund-United Nations Children's Fund joint programme on accelerating the abandonment of female genital mutilation, and sensitization workshops on the dire consequences of this harmful practice for the health of the girl, and to provide training programmes for those who perform the harmful procedure so that they may adopt an alternative profession;

40. *Welcomes* the commitment of ten United Nations agencies, in their joint statement of 27 February 2008, to continue working towards the elimination of female genital mutilation, by, inter alia, providing technical and financial assistance, and stresses that a common coordinated approach that promotes positive social change at the community, national and international levels could lead to female genital mutilation being abandoned within a generation, with some of the main achievements being obtained by 2015, in line with the Millennium Development Goals;

41. *Calls upon* States to strengthen the capacity of national health systems, and in this regard calls upon the international community to assist national efforts, includ-

ing by allocation of adequate resources in order to provide essential services needed to prevent obstetric fistula and to treat those cases that occur by providing the continuum of services, including family planning, prenatal and post-natal care, skilled birth attendance, emergency obstetric care and post-partum care, to adolescent girls, including those living in poverty and in underserved rural areas where obstetric fistula is most common;

42. *Calls upon* States and the international community to create an environment in which the well-being of the girl child is ensured, inter alia, by cooperating, supporting and participating in global efforts for poverty eradication at the global, regional and country levels, recognizing that strengthened availability and effective allocation of resources are required at all levels, in order to ensure that all the internationally agreed development and poverty eradication goals, including those set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, are realized within their time framework, and reaffirming that investment in children, particularly girls, and the realization of their rights are among the most effective ways to eradicate poverty;

43. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including an emphasis on ending child and forced marriages, using information provided by Member States, the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations with a view to assessing the impact of the present resolution on the well-being of the girl child.

UN machinery

Convention on the elimination of discrimination against women

As at 31 December, 187 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]. Qatar acceded on 29 April. At year's end, 55 States had 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 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 99 States parties as at 31 December.

In accordance with Assembly resolution 62/218 [YUN 2007, p. 1191], the Secretary-General submitted a September report [A/64/342] on the status of the Convention covering the period from 15 August 2007 to 24 August 2009.

CEDAW

In 2009, 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 [A/64/38 & A/65/38].

At its forty-third session (Geneva, 19 January–6 February), CEDAW reviewed the initial or periodic reports of Armenia, Cameroon, Dominica, Germany, Guatemala, Haiti, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Rwanda on measures taken to implement the Convention. CEDAW considered a Secretariat report on ways and means of expediting its work [CEDAW/C/2009/I/4] and a report of the Secretary-General on the status of submission of reports by States parties under article 18 of the Convention [CEDAW/C/2009/I/2]. The Secretary-General also transmitted a report by the International Labour Organization (ILO) on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of its activities [CEDAW/C/2009/I/3/Add.4]. The Committee elected its Chairperson for the next (2009–2010) period from the African Group, on the understanding that the next regional group in the rotation would be the Latin American and Caribbean Group, for the period 2011–2012. Thereafter, in electing the Chairperson, due consideration would be given to the principle of rotation among the regional groups in the following order: Western European and Others Group; Asian Group; Eastern European Group; African Group; and Latin American and Caribbean Group [A/64/38 (dec. 43/I)]. The Committee adopted a statement on the international financial crisis and its consequences for the human rights of women and girls [dec. 43/II], in which it called for gender perspectives to be taken into account in relation to the impacts of the crisis on both a long- and short-term basis. The Committee also adopted a statement on the situation in Gaza [dec. 43/III], in which it expressed concern about the January military engagement between Israel and Hamas that resulted in heavy civilian casualties, and called on the parties to implement the ceasefire and to involve women in the decision-making process on the promotion and maintenance of peace and security.

At its forty-fourth session (New York, 20 July–7 August), CEDAW reviewed the initial or periodic reports of Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Denmark, Guinea-Bissau, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Spain, Switzerland, Timor-Leste and Tuvalu. The Committee considered a report on the status of submission of reports by States parties under article 18 of the Convention [CEDAW/C/2009/II/2]. It also had before it a Secretariat report on ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee [CEDAW/C/2009/II/4] and an ILO report on the implementation of the

Convention in areas falling within the scope of its activities [CEDAW/C/2009/II/3/Add.4]. The Committee decided that experts from States parties might advise their Governments during the reporting process, including in the preparation of the report under article 18 of the Convention, but that they should not lead or write the report. Experts who received invitations to participate in events in their personal capacities might respond without seeking authorization from the Chair; they should, however, indicate in any statements that their views did not necessarily reflect the views of the Committee [A/65/38 (dec. 44/I)]. As gender equality was essential to the initiation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of climate change policies, CEDAW called on States parties to include it as an overarching guiding principle in the agreement expected at the fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in December [dec. 44/II].

In view of the celebration, in 2009, of the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention and the tenth anniversary of the adoption of its Optional Protocol by the Assembly, the Committee urged States that had not yet acceded to or ratified the Convention and/or its Optional Protocol to do so. It encouraged all States parties to the instruments to celebrate the anniversaries at the national level [dec. 44/III].

In other action, the Committee endorsed the report of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol on its fifteenth session (annexed to the report); took action on communications 12/2007 and 13/2007; decided to revise its model communication form; and adopted a fact sheet on the submission of individual communications under the Protocol. In accordance with its 2008 decision [YUN 2008, p. 1278] to introduce a follow-up procedure whereby it would request further information from individual States parties on steps taken to implement recommendations contained in CEDAW's concluding observations, the Committee appointed a rapporteur on follow-up to concluding observations, and an alternate, as well as a framework of the mandate of the follow-up rapporteur. The Committee also decided that the Secretariat should systematically remind States parties whose reports were five years or more overdue to submit their reports as soon as possible. Failing receipt of a response from the States parties concerned, the Secretariat was to inform the Committee at its forty-fifth (2010) session.

On 2 October, the Human Rights Council adopted a resolution on the elimination of discrimination against women (see p. 733).

On 18 December, by **decision 64/531**, the Assembly took note of the report of CEDAW on its forty-second and forty-third sessions.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 65], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/64/433], adopted **resolution 64/138** without vote [agenda item 62 (a)].

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 62/218 of 22 December 2007 and its previous resolutions on the elimination of discrimination against women,

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

Reiterating the need to intensify efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women throughout the world,

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

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

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

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and 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", in particular those paragraphs concerning the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto,

Welcoming the declaration of the Commission on the Status of Women on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, in which the Commission recognized that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the fulfilment of the obligations under the Convention are mutually reinforcing in respect of achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women,

Welcoming also the decision of the Commission to commemorate the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in conjunction with the fifty-fourth session of the Commission, to be held from 1 to 12 March 2010,

Recalling that, in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, Heads of State and Government resolved to implement the Convention, and recalling also that the 2005 World Summit Outcome reaffirmed that gender equality and the promotion and protection of the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all are essential to advance development and peace and security,

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

Noting that 18 December 2009 marks the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption by the General Assembly of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Noting also that 6 October 2009 marked the tenth anniversary of the adoption by the General Assembly of the Optional Protocol to the Convention,

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

Having considered the reports of the Committee on its fortieth and forty-first and forty-second and forty-third sessions,

Noting with appreciation the elaboration and adoption by the Committee at its forty-second session of general recommendation No. 26, on women migrant workers,

Expressing deep concern at the great number of reports that are still overdue, in particular initial reports, which constitutes an obstacle to the full implementation of the Convention,

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

2. *Also welcomes* the growing number of States parties to the Convention, which now stands at one hundred and eighty-six, while expressing disappointment that universal ratification of the Convention was not achieved by 2000, and urges all States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so;

3. *Further welcomes* the growing number of States parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention, which now stands at ninety-nine, and urges other States parties to the Convention to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol;

4. *Urges* States parties to comply fully with their obligations under the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto and to take into consideration the concluding observations as well as the general recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;

5. *Encourages* all relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their mandates, as well as Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in particular women's organizations, as appropriate, to strengthen assistance to States parties, upon their request, in implementing the Convention;

6. *Notes* that some States parties have modified their reservations, expresses satisfaction that some reservations have been withdrawn, and urges States parties to limit the extent of any reservations that they lodge to the Convention, to formulate any such reservations as precisely and as narrowly as possible, to ensure that no reservations are

incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention, to review their reservations regularly with a view to withdrawing them and to withdraw reservations that are contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention;

7. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Committee of Convention-specific reporting guidelines, which must be applied in conjunction with the harmonized reporting guidelines on a common core document;

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

9. *Also recalls* its resolution 50/202 of 22 December 1995, in which it took note with approval of the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention, which has yet to enter into force, and urges States parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to accept the amendment;

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

11. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts made by the Committee to improve the efficiency of its working methods, and welcomes the decision of the Committee to introduce a procedure to enhance the follow-up of its recommendations;

12. *Welcomes* the gradual alleviation of the backlog of reports awaiting consideration by the Committee;

13. *Continues to encourage* the Secretariat to extend further technical assistance to States parties, upon their request, to strengthen their capacity in the preparation of reports, in particular initial reports, and urges Governments to contribute to those efforts;

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

15. *Encourages* the continued participation of members of the Committee in inter-committee meetings and meetings of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies, including those on methods of work relating to the State reporting system;

16. *Encourages* the Committee, within its mandate, to continue to contribute to the efforts to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the treaty bodies, and welcomes as a positive example the joint working group of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and in this regard invites the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to consider other informal cooperative initiatives maximizing existing resources;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/4 of 6 October 1999, to provide the resources, including staff and facilities, necessary for the effective functioning of the Committee within its full mandate, including as set out in the Optional Protocol to the Convention;

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

19. *Encourages* States parties to disseminate the concluding observations adopted in relation to the consideration of their reports, as well as the general recommendations of the Committee;

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

21. *Urges* the specialized agencies, at the invitation of the Committee, to submit reports on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities;

22. *Welcomes* the contribution of non-governmental organizations, and national human rights institutions, where they exist, to the work of the Committee;

23. *Invites* the Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to address and to engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth and sixty-sixth sessions under the item on the advancement of women;

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

Commission on the Status of Women

The Commission on the Status of Women, at its fifty-third session (New York, 2–13 March) [E/2009/27], recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of draft resolutions on: the future operation of INSTRAW (see p. 1159); the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (see p. 474); the future organization and methods of work of the Commission (see p. 1155); and the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women of the Commission on the Status of Women (see p. 1157); as well as a draft decision on the report of the Commission's fifty-third session and the provisional agenda and documentation for its fifty-fourth (2010) session. The Commission adopted and brought to the Council's attention resolutions on women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS (see p. 1128) and on preparations for the Commission's 2010 session, during which there would be a review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (see p. 1115). Also adopted and brought to the Council's attention were agreed conclusions on the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS (see p. 1130), which was also the priority theme of the session; a summary of the discussions of an expert panel on gender perspectives on global public health in the context of implementing the internationally agreed development goals [ibid.]; and a decision by which the Commission took note of several documents, including the UNIFEM report

on its activities to eliminate violence against women [A/HRC/10/43-E/CN.6/2009/10] and the Secretary-General's report on the joint workplan of DAW and OHCHR [A/HRC/10/42-E/CN.6/2009/7].

By **decision 2009/232** of 28 July, the Economic and Social Council took note of the Commission's report on its fifty-third session and approved the provisional agenda for its fifty-fourth (2010) session.

Communication. In a 19 November letter [E/CN.6/2010/9] to the Commission Chairperson, the Economic and Social Council President summarized the outcome of its 2009 substantive session and attached a list of resolutions adopted by the Council calling for action by the functional commissions.

Other reports. Other documents issued in 2009, to be addressed during the Commission's 2010 session, included reports of the Secretary-General on ending female genital mutilation [E/CN.6/2010/6]; the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts [E/CN.6/2010/5]; and the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women [E/CN.6/2010/4].

Future organization and working methods

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolutions 1998/46 [YUN 1998, p. 1262] and 2006/9 [YUN 2006, p. 1356], the Secretary-General submitted a report [E/CN.6/2009/3 & Corr.1], which provided an overview of the Commission's working methods during the period 2007–2009, including in the context of the strengthening of the Council, and a proposed multi-year programme of work for 2010–2014. There was greater emphasis on implementation at the national level, including through interactive events, which increased the exchange of ideas, experiences, lessons learned and good practices on progress made and on constraints and challenges. The Commission's inputs into the Council's annual ministerial review provided overviews of policy recommendations on the promotion of gender equality in relation to the themes addressed each year.

The report noted that the Commission might wish to continue to provide those inputs and to organize an interactive expert panel on the theme of the Council's ministerial review at each of its annual sessions. For example, the Commission could make a significant contribution to the Council's work in 2010 on the theme: "Implementing the internationally agreed development goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women".

With regard to the 2010 review and appraisal of implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (2000), a questionnaire had been developed to solicit informa-

tion from Member States. The results would be submitted to the Commission in 2010.

As to the multi-year programme of work for 2010–2014, the report proposed priority themes to be discussed by the Commission in each of those years. In March, the Commission recommended a draft resolution on the subject for adoption by the Council, which approved the multi-year programme in resolution 2009/15 (see below).

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 28 July [meeting 40], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women [E/2009/27], adopted **resolution 2009/15** without vote [agenda item 14 (a)].

Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1998/46 of 31 July 1998, annex II of which contains the recommendation that the functional commissions responsible for follow-up to the major United Nations conferences adopt a multi-year thematic programme in their working methods,

Recalling also its request, in its resolution 2008/29 of 24 July 2008, that the functional commissions, the regional commissions and other relevant subsidiary bodies of the Council, in accordance with their mandates, as appropriate, contribute to the annual ministerial review and to the Development Cooperation Forum, in the context of their respective annual workplans, taking into account their specificities,

Recalling further that, in its resolutions 1987/24 of 26 May 1987, 1990/15 of 24 May 1990, 1996/6 of 22 July 1996, 2001/4 of 24 July 2001 and 2006/9 of 25 July 2006, the Council adopted multi-year programmes of work for a focused and thematic approach for the Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling that, in its resolution 2006/9, the Council decided that the Commission, at its fifty-third session, should review the functioning of its revised methods of work, in the light of the outcome of the discussions on the strengthening of the Council, in order to ensure the effective functioning of the Commission,

Recalling also that, in its resolution 2006/9, the Council decided that the Commission, at its fifty-third session, would also discuss the possibility of conducting in 2010 a review and appraisal of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

Reaffirming the primary responsibility of the Commission for follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

Recognizing that the organization of work of the Commission should contribute to advancing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

Recognizing also that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the fulfilment of the obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women are mutually reinforcing in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women,

Reaffirming that gender mainstreaming constitutes a critical strategy in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and underlining the catalytic role of the Commission in promoting gender mainstreaming,

Recognizing the importance of non-governmental organizations in advancing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and, in this respect, the work of the Commission,

Noting with appreciation the continuation of the annual parliamentary meetings organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, as well as the programme of side events held during the sessions of the Commission,

A. Methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

1. *Decides* that, following the review of the functioning of its revised methods of work, the Commission on the Status of Women should, from its fifty-fourth session onwards, maintain its current working methods, adopted by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2006/9, and should continue to keep its working methods under review;

B. Themes for the period 2010–2014

2. *Also decides* that:

(a) In 2010, at its fifty-fourth session, the Commission will review the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, as well as its contribution to shaping a gender perspective towards the full realization of the Millennium Development Goals;

(b) In 2011, at its fifty-fifth session, the priority theme will be “Access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women’s equal access to full employment and decent work” and progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions from the fifty-first session on the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child will be evaluated;

(c) In 2012, at its fifty-sixth session, the priority theme will be “The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges” and progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions from the fifty-second session on financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women will be evaluated;

(d) In 2013, at its fifty-seventh session, the priority theme will be “Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls” and progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions from the fifty-third session on the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS, will be evaluated;

(e) In 2014, at its fifty-eighth session, the priority theme will be “Challenges and achievements in the im-

plementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls” and progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions from the fifty-fifth session on access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women’s equal access to full employment and decent work, will be evaluated;

3. *Further decides* that, at its fifty-seventh session, in 2013, the Commission will discuss the possibility of conducting in 2015 a review and appraisal of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and will decide on priority themes for future sessions.

Communications on the status of women

In accordance with decision 52/101 of the Commission on the Status of Women [YUN 2008, p. 1278], the Secretary-General submitted a report [E/CN.6/2009/8] on the future work of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women, which compiled additional or updated views of eight Member States and the European Union received since the preparation of the previous report on the subject [YUN 2004, p. 1170].

Working Group. At a closed meeting in March [E/2009/27], the Commission considered the report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women [E/CN.6/2009/CRP.3], established in 1993 [YUN 1993, p. 1050], which had considered 21 confidential communications received by DAW. No non-confidential communications were received. The Group noted that Governments had replied to nine of the 21 confidential communications, and one Government replied to a communication that was on the list from the previous year. The Group observed that communications received most frequently concerned: sexual violence, including rape and gang rape, and failure by the State to prevent such violations, provide adequate protection, care and compensation to victims and bring perpetrators to justice; other forms of violence, with a lack of due diligence by States to investigate, prosecute and punish perpetrators or provide protection and support for victims and their families; abuse of power by the police, impunity, humiliation and lack of due process; inhumane treatment and inadequate conditions in mental facilities and in detention; the impact on women and girls of ongoing situations of violence, insecurity and unmet basic needs, as well as the exclusion of women from decision-making processes; serious and systematic violations of the human rights of women and girls, including torture, killings and abductions, with a lack of due diligence by States to investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators and provide protection and support for victims and their families; attacks, murders, harassment, death threats, arbitrary arrests and detentions, and disproportionate penalties and restrictions on the rights to freedom of expression

and movement of women human rights defenders and their families by State and non-State actors as a means of pressuring them to stop their work, as well as failure by the State to prevent such violations, provide protection and care to victims, bring perpetrators to justice and provide compensation; violations of the right to health, including reproductive health, of women, especially low-income and marginalized women in rural areas and women displaced by conflict; stereotypical attitudes and discriminatory policies towards women, including non-remunerated caregivers; and denial of visas for visits of spouses of foreign male inmates.

During its consideration of communications, the Working Group expressed its concern about violence against women and girls and the climate of impunity and abuse of power. The failure of States to exercise due diligence to prevent all forms of violence against women and girls and violations of the right of women to health, including reproductive health, were also of concern. However, the Working Group was encouraged to note that some Governments had carried out investigations into the allegations and had taken general measures, including enacting new legislation, conducting legal reforms, introducing health policies and gender-budgeting initiatives, improving health care, making efforts to increase women's participation in political life and in key sectors of the economy, and improving awareness-raising activities to promote gender equality and the advancement of women.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 28 July [meeting 40], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women [E/2009/27], adopted **resolution 2009/16** without vote [agenda item 14 (a)].

Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women of the Commission on the Status of Women

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the mandate of the Commission on the Status of Women as set out by the Economic and Social Council in its resolutions 76(V) of 5 August 1947, 304 I(XI) of 14 and 17 July 1950, 1983/27 of 26 May 1983, 1990/8 of 24 May 1990, 1992/19 of 30 July 1992 and 1993/11 of 27 July 1993, as well as in its decision 2002/235 of 24 July 2002 on the communications procedure,

1. *Decides*, in order to make the communications procedure of the Commission on the Status of Women more effective and efficient, that the Commission, starting at its fifty-fourth session, should appoint the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women for a two-year period;
2. *Reiterates* its decision to continue to raise awareness of the existing mandate of the communications mechanism of the Commission, as appropriate;
3. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter, as necessary.

UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)

During 2009 [A/65/218], the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) continued to work with Governments, civil society and UN organizations on the four key areas of its development results framework: strengthening women's economic security and rights; ending violence against women; reducing the prevalence of HIV/AIDS among girls and women; and advancing gender justice in democratic governance, including in conflict-affected and post-conflict countries. UNIFEM responded to requests for technical and programming support in 98 countries in 2009, compared with 82 in 2008. Since UNIFEM would be consolidated into the composite United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the year 2009 would be the last to be reported on in fulfilment of the mandate set out in General Assembly resolution 39/125 [YUN 1984, p. 893]. However, UNIFEM would continue reporting on its strategic plan for 2008–2013, as authorized by the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/UNFPA in decision 2007/35 [YUN 2007, p. 1195] and extended in decision 2009/13 (see p. 1158), until it was replaced by a new plan.

With regard to enhancing women's economic security and rights, UNIFEM worked to: incorporate national commitments to gender equality in 15 national or regional poverty-reduction frameworks; support efforts towards the adoption of 20 laws or policies advancing women's economic capacities and rights in 13 countries (compared with 15 in 2008); support expanded access to legal assistance for women in five countries (seven in 2008); and support the institutionalization of gender-responsive budgeting in 27 countries (32 in 2008). On ending violence against women, UNIFEM supported efforts to: end impunity for violations of women's rights, which resulted in justice system reforms in six countries (four in 2008); secure the approval of 16 laws (eight in 2008) and five policies (seven in 2008) relating to multiple forms of violence against women; and advocate for the inclusion of commitments to end such violence in national development strategies in three countries (five in 2008). UNIFEM supported Governments in developing the capacities of decision makers in justice systems by ensuring that women survivors of violence could access legal assistance under 15 country/territory programmes (11 in 2008). In 31 countries (11 in 2008), it supported the tracking of the prevalence of gender-based violence and the availability of services for survivors. UNIFEM supported HIV-positive women's networks and groups in calling for Government action in 12 countries (five in 2008), and assisted partners to strengthen service delivery to women infected or affected by HIV through mainstream institutions in

nine countries and throughout the Caribbean region. As to advancing gender justice in democratic governance, UNIFEM worked with partners to incorporate commitments on gender equality and women's empowerment into humanitarian relief strategies in three countries and to support the passage of 33 laws or policies strengthening women's participation in democratic governance (27 in 2008). In 71 countries (58 in 2008), UNIFEM supported initiatives to develop the capacity of advocates to press for the implementation of national commitments to gender equality.

The Fund's management results framework tracked performance across four areas: policy advice and catalytic programming; UN coordination and reform; accountability, risk and oversight; and administrative, human and financial capacities. UNIFEM produced guidance for the United Nations and other partners to strengthen knowledge and practice to advance gender equality and women's empowerment. Highlights in 2009 included guidance notes for mediators in five key areas of peace negotiations that contributed to discussions relevant to Security Council resolutions 1888(2009) (see p. 1137) and 1889(2009) (see p. 1141); guidance on integrating gender-responsive budgeting in the aid effectiveness agenda; the launch of a virtual knowledge centre on ending violence against women; and an accountability checklist for national AIDS planning. UNIFEM participated in eight "Delivering as one" pilot programmes and was engaged in 95 joint programmes (72 in 2008) with other parts of the UN system. It participated in or led gender theme groups in 69 countries, as well as 75 other coordination mechanisms at the global, regional and country levels.

In 2009, UNIFEM contributions increased by 14 per cent to \$138 million, compared with \$121 million in 2008. Core contributions increased to \$62 million, an increase of 21 per cent over the 2008 total of \$51 million, while non-core contributions (excluding special trust funds managed by UNIFEM) increased by \$6 million, or 8 per cent, to reach \$76 million. The number of countries contributing to the Fund's regular and other resources increased from 80 in 2008 to 102 in 2009. The number of multi-year pledges more than doubled over the year, from 11 to 24. For the first time, the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women disbursed grants to UN country teams, in addition to Governments and NGOs. The Fund for Gender Equality made its first grant of \$9.99 million in 2009.

In July [A/64/164 & Corr.1], the Secretary-General transmitted to the Assembly a report on UNIFEM activities in 2008 [YUN 2008, p. 1279], of which the Assembly took note on 18 December in **decision 64/531**. On 24 December, the Assembly decided that the agenda item on the advancement of women would remain for consideration during its sixty-fourth (2010) session (**decision 64/549**).

UNDP/UNFPA Board action. In June, the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board [E/2009/35 (dec. 2009/13)] took note of the annual report of the UNIFEM Executive Director [DP/2009/21 & Corr.1/Rev.1], which covered 2008. It extended the UNIFEM strategic plan, 2008–2011, including the integrated financial resources framework, to 2013. The Executive Board requested UNIFEM to include in its annual reports qualitative and quantitative information on progress and challenges toward achieving the goals and outcomes of its strategic plan, using the indicators defined in the plan. It requested the Executive Director to submit to the Executive Board's 2011 session a midterm review of the extended strategic plan, 2008–2013, including the integrated financial resources framework and the relevant UNIFEM global and regional programmes. The Executive Director was further asked to submit to the Executive Board, at its first regular session in 2013, a cumulative review of the extended strategic plan, 2008–2013, prior to the submission of the draft UNIFEM strategic plan, 2014–2017, at the 2013 annual session, and ahead of its formal submission at the second 2013 regular session.

In July, the Consultative Committee on UNIFEM transmitted to the Executive Board a document [DP/2009/38] containing information on UNIFEM's criteria for regular resources allocation and proposing options for future programming resources distribution. The document analysed two options for the development and application of resource allocation criteria and methodology. The first was to devise UNIFEM-specific criteria and methodology, while the second was to adopt criteria and methodology from a sister agency and adjust it for gender, in line with UNIFEM's mandate. The criteria and methodology used by UNDP and UNFPA were reviewed for that purpose and the document suggested the adoption of the UNDP approach with a methodology to adjust for gender. The Executive Board took note of the document in September [dec. 2009/28].

In November [dec. 2009/30], the Board approved a UNIFEM interim budget allocation for January 2010 in the amount of \$1.2 million, pending final approval of the biennial support budget for 2010–2011. It agreed that the interim budget allocation would be part of and not incremental to the biennial support budget for 2010–2011.

International Research and Training Institute (INSTRAW)

The Executive Board of INSTRAW, at its sixth session (New York, 23 April) [E/2009/62], considered: the election of Executive Board officers; the directorship of the Institute; progress made during the Management Support Services consultancy to strengthen INSTRAW;

implementation of the programme of work for the period 1 October 2008 to 31 March 2009; and the workplan and operational budget for 2009. Pending the appointment of a Director, it was explained to the Board that the Secretary-General had recommended the immediate appointment of an interim Director to fill the position on a short-term basis, while an internal recruitment process would be initiated for a longer-term interim Director. Regarding communications between INSTRAW and UN Headquarters and other entities, it was reported that the lack of staff presence in New York presented an obstacle to advancing the Institute's agenda, particularly in terms of discussions on UN gender equality architecture reform. The Board approved the reallocation of savings from 2008 and 2009 towards budget lines for consultants' fees and travel and general temporary assistance.

On 30 July, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the INSTRAW Executive Board (**decision 2009/256**).

Future of INSTRAW

In response to Commission on the Status of Women resolution 52/3 [YUN 2008, p. 1281], the Secretary-General submitted a report on strengthening INSTRAW [E/CN.6/2009/11]. In March [E/2009/27], the Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of a resolution on the future operation of INSTRAW.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 63/157 [YUN 2008, p. 1281], the Secretary-General, by a May note [A/64/79-E/2009/74], transmitted to the Council and the Assembly his report on strengthening INSTRAW, which had been considered by the Commission. The report summarized the Institute's efforts, in line with its strategic framework for 2008–2011, to expand its training and research activities.

The report concluded that the Institute had consolidated its research and training programmes and enhanced its knowledge management capacity to ensure that research results impacted policy and programme development and implementation. It had improved its collaboration with UN entities in the area of research, and strengthened its training and capacity-building programmes, as well as enhanced its formulation of policy recommendations for Member States and civil society. Voluntary contributions to INSTRAW's regular operations had increased, allowing it to operate on the basis of resources received through those contributions. Multi-year funding agreements were negotiated to ensure a more stable financial base. The report noted that the Institute should intensify its efforts to build on that progress, enhance its visibility, and impact UN system work on gender equality and women's empowerment.

On 30 July (**decision 2009/256**), the Council took note of the Secretary-General's report, as did the Assembly on 18 December (**decision 64/531**).

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 28 July [meeting 40], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women [E/2009/27], adopted **resolution 2009/13** without vote [agenda item 14 (a)].

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

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling all previous resolutions on the situation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, in particular General Assembly resolution 63/157 of 18 December 2008,

Taking into account Commission on the Status of Women resolution 52/3 of 7 March 2008 on the strengthening of the Institute,

Welcoming the contributions of the Institute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

Acknowledging the contributions of the Institute in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women in the areas of security, international migration, in particular remittances and development, and governance and political participation,

Recognizing the contribution of the Institute to the ongoing efforts in gender mainstreaming through its research and training outputs involving national gender machineries, academic institutes, regional intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women;

2. *Requests* the Institute, within its mandate, to continue to assist countries in promoting and supporting the political participation and economic and social advancement of women through training programmes;

3. *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, and invites Member States to make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund;

4. *Calls for* the diversification of funding resources, and in this regard invites Member States to continue to provide assistance and support to the Institute through voluntary contributions and substantive involvement in its projects and activities;

5. *Looks forward* to the enhanced implementation of the strategic plan of the Institute under the leadership of its new Director, and in this regard urges the Secretary-General to appoint its new Director as a matter of priority.