

gies to implement action programmes on the status of women in the Secretariat and the relevant mandates adopted by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council is submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women and to the General Assembly for consideration by the Third Committee, under the item on the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women.

78th plenary meeting  
8 December 1989

#### 44/76. Elderly women

*The General Assembly,*

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

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

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

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

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

2. *Reaffirms* Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/38, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to organize a seminar, within available budgetary resources, to study questions arising from an in-depth analysis of the situation of women as they age, and to transmit the results of the study to the Commission on the Status of Women, under the priority theme of development, at its session in 1992, at which the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the International Plan of Action on Ageing<sup>49</sup> will also be observed;

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

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

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

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

78th plenary meeting  
8 December 1989

#### 44/77. Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* all its relevant resolutions, in particular resolutions 40/108 of 13 December 1985, 42/62 of 30 November 1987 and 43/101 of 8 December 1988, in which, *inter alia*, it endorsed and reaffirmed the importance of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women<sup>52</sup> for the period up to the year 2000 and set out measures for their immediate implementation and for the overall achievement of the interrelated goals and objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>83</sup>

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of resolutions 1, 2 and 4 adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its special session in 1987,<sup>84</sup> in particular its recommendation that the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies and the status of women in general should be incorporated as one of the priorities in the introduction to the medium-term plan of the Organization for the period 1992-1997;

3. *Reaffirms* the urgent need for the Forward-looking Strategies to be translated immediately into concrete action by Governments, within the framework of overall national priorities, as well as by the organizations and bodies

<sup>83</sup> A/44/511.

<sup>84</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1987, Supplement No. 2 (E/1987/15), chap. I, sect. C.*

of the United Nations system, the specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14. *Takes note with interest* of the conclusions and recommendations of the International Seminar on

Women and Rural Development: Programmes and Projects, held at Vienna from 22 to 26 May 1989;<sup>85</sup>

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

16. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue updating the *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development*,<sup>86</sup> bearing in mind its importance, placing particular emphasis on the adverse impact of the difficult economic situation affecting the majority of developing countries, in particular on the condition of women, and giving special attention to worsening conditions for the incorporation of women into the labour force as well as to the impact of reduced expenditures for social services on women's opportunities for education, health and child care, and to submit a preliminary version of the updated *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development* to the Economic and Social Council, through the Commission, in 1993 and a final version in 1994;

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

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

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

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

21. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to include in his report on the implementation of the Forward-

<sup>85</sup> See A/44/516, annex

<sup>86</sup> E/CN.6/1988/7

looking Strategies, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, an assessment of recent developments that are relevant to the priority themes to be considered at the subsequent session of the Commission and to transmit to the Commission a summary of relevant views expressed by delegations during the debate in the Assembly;

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

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

*78th plenary meeting  
8 December 1989*

#### **44/78. Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 34/14 of 9 November 1979, in which it endorsed the Declaration of Principles and the Programme of Action as adopted by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development,<sup>87</sup> and other relevant resolutions,

*Recalling also* the importance given to the problems of rural women in the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,<sup>52</sup>

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

*Taking note with satisfaction* of the results of the International Seminar on Women and Rural Development: Programmes and Projects, held at Vienna from 22 to 26 May 1989,<sup>85</sup>

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

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

1. *Commends* the report of the Secretary-General on national experience relating to the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas;<sup>88</sup>

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

(a) Setting up or strengthening national machineries for the advancement of women in order to ensure effective execution, monitoring and evaluation of national strategies in the field of rural development and, in particular, to strengthen liaison with agricultural and rural development institutions;

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

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

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

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

*78th plenary meeting  
8 December 1989*

#### **44/79. Importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and of the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights**

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* its faith in the importance of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples contained in its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

*Reaffirming also* the importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination, national sovereignty and territorial integrity and of the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples as imperatives for the full enjoyment of all human rights,

*Reaffirming further* the obligation of all Member States to comply with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the resolutions of the United Nations regarding the exercise of the right to self-determination by peoples under colonial and foreign domination,

*Recalling* its resolution 1514 (XV) and all relevant resolutions concerning the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

*Recalling also* its resolutions on the question of Namibia, in particular resolutions 2145 (XXI) of 27 October 1966 and S-14/1 of 20 September 1986, as well as the relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolutions 385 (1976) of 30 January 1976, 435 (1978) of 29 September 1978, 629 (1989) of 16 January 1989, 632 (1989) of 16 February 1989 and 640 (1989) of 29 August 1989,

*Recalling further* the final communiqué adopted by the United Nations Council for Namibia at its ministerial meeting held at United Nations Headquarters on 2 October 1987,<sup>89</sup>

<sup>87</sup> See *Report of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, Rome, 12-20 July 1979* (WCARRD/REP); transmitted to the members of the General Assembly by a note by the Secretary-General (A/34/485).

<sup>88</sup> A/44/516.

<sup>89</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 24 (A/43/24)*, para. 86.