

4. *Invites* the executive secretaries of the five regional commissions to propose to their governing bodies measures for reassessing all individual work programmes in order to incorporate women's concerns at all levels in their overall work programmes for the biennium 1988-1989, taking into account the roles and responsibilities of the regional commissions in developing and implementing the system-wide, medium-term plan for women and development¹⁰¹ and the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women;⁵¹

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take into account the important role of the regional commissions in promoting the advancement of women when formulating the system-wide, medium-term plan for women and development and when implementing the Forward-looking Strategies;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-first session:

(a) On the progress made in implementing paragraphs 5 and 6 of its resolution 39/127;

(b) On the measures proposed by the five regional commissions to incorporate women's concerns at all levels in their overall work programmes for the biennium 1988-1989, as outlined in paragraph 4 above.

*116th plenary meeting
13 December 1985*

40/106. National experience relating to the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas

The General Assembly,

Referring to the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, adopted by the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace,⁵¹

Recalling its resolutions 34/14 of 9 November 1979, 37/59 of 3 December 1982 and 39/126 of 14 December 1984, concerning the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas,

Reaffirming the importance attached in the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women⁹⁴ and in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women⁷⁵ to the need to improve the status of women and ensure their full participation, both as agents and as beneficiaries, in the development process,

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

Convinced that the eradication of *apartheid*, all forms of racial discrimination, colonialism, neo-colonialism, aggression, foreign occupation and domination is essential to the further improvement of the situation of rural women,

Considering that the strengthening of international peace and co-operation is one of the factors contributing to the further improvement of the situation of rural women,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Interregional Seminar on National Experience Relating to the Improvement of the Situation of Women in Rural Areas, held at Vienna from 17 to 28 September 1984, as well as the compilation of observations and comments made by Member States;¹⁰²

2. *Calls upon* Governments to elaborate and implement, as a part of national development strategies, special

comprehensive programmes for improving the situation of women in rural areas and to establish monitoring and evaluating mechanisms, involving women themselves, for these programmes;

3. *Requests* the organizations and funds concerned within the United Nations system to pay greater attention to the needs of rural women and to assist Member States, especially the developing countries, in the implementation of their national policies and programmes aimed at the advancement of rural women;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, in consultation with the Member States, a comprehensive report on the present status and perspectives for the improvement of the situation of rural women, paying special attention, *inter alia*, to:

(a) Participation of rural women in socio-economic and political life;

(b) Questions of the exercise by rural women of their rights;

(c) Role of agricultural co-operatives in the improvement of the situation of women;

(d) Agrarian reform, particularly in favour of rural women, with a view to improving their situation;

(e) Elimination of illiteracy among rural women and upgrading of their educational level;

(f) Assistance to rural women in the improvement of their situation;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit the report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session through the Economic and Social Council.

*116th plenary meeting
13 December 1985*

40/107. Expression of appreciation to the Government and people of Kenya on the occasion of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace

The General Assembly,

Taking into account the significance and the results of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, held at Nairobi from 15 to 26 July 1985,⁹⁶

Expresses its deep appreciation to the Government and people of Kenya for acting as host to the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace.

*116th plenary meeting
13 December 1985*

40/108. Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3520 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, in which it proclaimed the period from 1976 to 1985 the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace,

Bearing in mind the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,⁷⁵ which was

¹⁰¹ See E/1985/45.

¹⁰² See A/40/239 and Add.1

adopted on 18 December 1979 and which came into force on 3 September 1981,

Recalling also the principles and objectives set forth in the Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and Their Contribution to Development and Peace, 1975,⁹² the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year⁹³ and the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women,⁹⁴

Bearing in mind also its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation and 2542 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969 proclaiming the Declaration on Social Progress and Development,

Bearing in mind further the consensus achieved in the text of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980, in particular regarding the implementation of the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women within the framework of the Strategy,

Recalling also its resolution 37/63 of 3 December 1982, by which it proclaimed the Declaration on the Participation of Women in Promoting International Peace and Co-operation,

Recalling further its resolution 39/29 of 3 December 1984 on the critical economic situation in Africa,

Recalling its resolution 35/136 of 11 December 1980, in which it decided to convene in 1985, at the conclusion of the Decade, a World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women,

Conscious of the considerable and constructive contribution made by the Commission on the Status of Women acting as preparatory body for the Conference, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and other organizations of the United Nations system, Member States and non-governmental organizations in the preparations for the Conference,

Aware of the continued contribution made by the Non-Governmental Organizations Forum to the advancement of women,

Convinced that the full integration of women in all aspects of political, economic and social life, at the international, regional and national levels, is essential if the obstacles to the achievement of the goals and objectives of the Decade are to be overcome,

Having considered the report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace,⁹⁶

Convinced that the Conference, by adopting the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,⁵¹ has made an important and positive contribution to the attainment of the objectives of the Decade and provided a policy framework for advancing the status of women to the year 2000,

Further convinced that the Conference has made an important and constructive contribution by appraising the progress achieved and obstacles encountered in the implementation of the objectives of the Decade and by preparing and adopting strategies to advance the status of women for the next fifteen years,

Stressing that during the period 1986-2000 the primary responsibility for implementing the Forward-looking Strategies rests with individual countries, as they are intended to serve as guidelines for a process of continuous adaptation to diverse and changing situations at speeds and in modes determined by overall national priorities, within which the integration of women in development should rank high,

Reaffirming that the realization of equal rights for women at all levels and in all areas of life will contribute to the achievement of a just and lasting peace, to social progress and to respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and that the integration of women in the mainstream of the development process requires not only commitment at the national, regional and international levels, but also continuing financial and technical support, and also requires the establishment of the new international economic order,

Considering that the Forward-looking Strategies should immediately be translated into concrete action by Governments, as determined by overall national priorities, by organizations of the United Nations system, specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including women's organizations,

Persuaded of the importance of taking measures to ensure system-wide co-ordination within the United Nations in order to develop a comprehensive and integrated approach to the issues which are crucial to the advancement of women,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievement of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace;⁹⁶

2. *Endorses* the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women;⁵¹

3. *Affirms* that the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies should result in the elimination of all forms of inequality between women and men and in the complete integration of women into the development process and that that should guarantee broad participation by women in efforts to strengthen peace and security in the world;

4. *Declares* that the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, with the subtheme "Employment, Health and Education", remain valid;

5. *Calls upon* Governments to allocate adequate resources and to take effective appropriate measures to implement the Forward-looking Strategies as a matter of high priority, including the establishment or reinforcement, as appropriate, of national machineries to promote the advancement of women, and to monitor the implementation of these strategies with a view to ensuring the full integration of women in the political, economic, social and cultural life of their countries;

6. *Calls upon* all Governments of Member States to appoint women to decision-making positions, bearing in mind their contribution to national development;

7. *Invites* Governments, when preparing and evaluating national plans and programmes of action, to incorporate measurable targets for overcoming obstacles to the advancement of women and to include measures for the involvement of women in development, both as agents and beneficiaries, on an equal basis with men, and to review the impact of development policies and programmes on women;

8. *Invites* governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to give high priority to the

implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies and, in particular, to ensure that sectoral policies and programmes for development include strategies to promote the participation of women as agents and beneficiaries on an equal basis with men;

9. *Urges* all Governments to contribute to the strengthening of institutional co-ordination in their regions and subregions in order to establish collaborative arrangements and to develop approaches for the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies at those levels;

10. *Urges* all organizations of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions and all specialized agencies, to take the necessary measures to ensure a concerted and sustained effort for the implementation of the provisions of the Forward-looking Strategies with a view to achieving a substantial improvement in the status of women by the year 2000 and to ensure that all projects and programmes take into account the need for the complete integration of women and women's concerns;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the specialized agencies and bodies of the United Nations system to establish, where they do not already exist, focal points on women's issues in all sectors of the work of the organizations of the United Nations system;

12. *Urges* the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to review periodically the system-wide implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies and to hold regular inter-agency meetings on women within the framework of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination;

13. *Emphasizes* the central role of the Commission on the Status of Women in matters related to the advancement of the status 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 with the Commission in this task;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the Commission on the Status of Women receives the support services it requires to fulfil its central role effectively;

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

16. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, in preparing the note on the integrated reporting system for periodic review and appraisal of progress in the advancement of women for submission to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-first session, as called for in Economic and Social Council decision 1984/123 of 24 May 1984, to include proposals for a reporting system to facilitate the monitoring of the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies as set out in paragraph 15 above, taking into account the experience gained during the Decade, the views of Governments and the need not to duplicate existing reporting obligations, bearing in mind the need to carry out periodical in-depth sectoral reviews of progress achieved and obstacles encountered in implementing the Forward-looking Strategies to the year 2000;

17. *Recommends* that the Secretary-General prepare and submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-first session, bearing in mind the remarks and concrete recommendations made during the debate at the fortieth session, in particular the proposals about increas-

ing the number of members and the frequency of meetings of the Commission, a report on alternative measures to strengthen the Commission in the discharge of its functions following the United Nations Decade for Women, and also recommends that the recommendations of the Commission on the matter be reported to the General Assembly at its forty-first session through the Economic and Social Council;

18. *Reaffirms* the role of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, in particular the Branch for the Advancement of Women, as the substantive secretariat of the Commission and as a focal point for matters on women, and requests the Secretariat to collect and disseminate information on system-wide activities related to the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies;

19. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the appointment of the Co-ordinator for the Improvement of the Status of Women in the Secretariat of the United Nations, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/245 of 18 December 1984, and, in this context, of the fact that the Secretary-General should continue to plan and implement positive actions and programmes to improve the status of women in the Secretariat and to monitor the progress achieved;

20. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General and the heads of the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies to establish new five-year targets at each level for the percentage of women in Professional and decision-making positions, in accordance with the criteria established by the General Assembly, in particular that of equitable geographical distribution, in order that a definite upward trend in the application of Assembly resolution 33/143 of 20 December 1978 be registered in the number of Professional and decision-making positions held by women by 1990 and to set additional targets every five years;

21. *Welcomes* Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/46 of 31 May 1985 regarding women and development and, noting the particular importance of paragraph 4 of that resolution, recommends that immediate measures be taken to ensure that future medium-term plans of the United Nations and the specialized agencies should contain intersectoral presentations of the various programmes dealing with issues of concern to women and that revisions of current plans should be considered in the light of the results of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace;⁹⁶

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take into account the requirements of the Forward-looking Strategies in preparing the programme budget and programme of work for the biennium 1988-1989;

23. *Urges* all financial institutions and all international regional and subregional organizations, institutions, development banks and general funding agencies to ensure that their policies and programmes promote the full participation of women as agents and beneficiaries in the development process;

24. *Invites* the Secretary-General to circulate the report of the Conference among Member States, all organizations of the United Nations system and specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in order to ensure that the Forward-looking Strategies are publicized and disseminated as widely as possible, and encourages Governments to translate the Strategies into their national languages;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the heads of all organizations within the United Nations system and of the

specialized agencies to continue to give high priority in their public information programmes to disseminating information concerning women and, in particular, the Forward-looking Strategies and, in the light of the recommendations contained in the Strategies, further requests the Secretary-General to provide in the regular budget for the continuation of the existing weekly radio programmes on women, with adequate provision for distributing them in different languages;

26. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-first session on measures taken to implement the present resolution;

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

*116th plenary meeting
13 December 1985*

40/109. Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance

The General Assembly,

Conscious of the need to promote universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Reaffirming its resolution 36/55 of 25 November 1981, in which it proclaimed the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,

Recalling subsequent resolutions, in which the Assembly requested the Commission on Human Rights to consider what measures might be necessary to implement the Declaration,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/39 of 24 May 1984, in which the Council authorized the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to entrust its Special Rapporteur with the preparation of a study, in accordance with the terms of Sub-Commission resolution 1983/31 of 6 September 1983,¹⁰³ on the current dimensions of the problems of intolerance and of discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief,

Taking note of the progress report thereon submitted by the Special Rapporteur to the Sub-Commission at its thirty-eighth session,¹⁰⁴

Concerned that the Special Rapporteur has not yet received sufficiently relevant or detailed information to discharge her tasks effectively,

Recalling the Seminar on the Encouragement of Understanding, Tolerance and Respect in Matters relating to Freedom of Religion or Belief, held at Geneva from 3 to 14 December 1984,

Recognizing that it is desirable to enhance the promotional and public information activities of the United Nations in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief and that both Governments and non-governmental organizations have an important role to play in this domain,

Aware that intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief continue to exist in many parts of the world,

Believing that further efforts are, therefore, required to promote and protect the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief,

1. *Reaffirms* that freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief is a right guaranteed to all without discrimination;

2. *Urges* States, therefore, in accordance with their respective constitutional systems, to provide, where they have not already done so, adequate constitutional and legal guarantees of freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief;

3. *Endorses* the request of the Commission on Human Rights to the Secretary-General, contained in its resolution 1985/51 of 14 March 1985,³⁰ to prepare a compendium of the national legislation and regulations of States on the question of freedom of religion or belief, with particular regard to the measures taken to combat intolerance or discrimination in this field;

4. *Encourages* Governments, specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to supply the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, as requested, with information relevant to the study she is preparing on the current dimensions of the problems of intolerance and of discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief, so as to enable her to submit the final report to the Sub-Commission as soon as possible;

5. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Seminar on the Encouragement of Understanding, Tolerance and Respect in Matters relating to Freedom of Religion or Belief;¹⁰⁵

6. *Urges* all States to take all appropriate measures to combat intolerance and to encourage understanding, tolerance and respect in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief and, in this context, to examine where necessary the supervision and training of their civil servants, educators and other public officials to ensure that, in the course of their official duties, they respect different religions and beliefs and do not discriminate against persons professing other religions or beliefs;

7. *Invites* the United Nations University and other academic and research institutions to undertake programmes and studies on the encouragement of understanding, tolerance and respect in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief;

8. *Invites* the Secretary-General to continue to give high priority to the dissemination of the text of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, in all official languages of the United Nations, and to take all appropriate measures to make the text available for use by United Nations information centres, as well as by other interested bodies;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General in this context to invite interested non-governmental organizations to consider what further role they could envisage playing regarding the dissemination of the Declaration in national and local languages;

10. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to continue its consideration of measures to implement the Declaration and to report, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-first session;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-first session the item entitled "Elimination of all

¹⁰³ See E/CN.4/1984/3-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1983/43 and Corr.1 and 2, chap. XXI, sect. A.

¹⁰⁴ E/CN.4/Sub.2/1985/28.

¹⁰⁵ See A/40/361, annex.