



**Decade for Action to  
Combat Racism and  
Racial Discrimination**

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Note by the Secretary-General

1. Within the framework of the programme of activities to be undertaken during the second half of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination annexed to General Assembly resolution 34/24, the Commission on the Status of Women was requested, in paragraph 23, to prepare a study in 1981 on the situation of women and children living under the racist minority régimes in southern Africa, especially under the apartheid régime.

2. The Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, subsequently informed the Centre for Human Rights that the requested study had not been completed in 1981 as requested by the General Assembly. The Centre stated that the topic had been comprehensively discussed during the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, held in Copenhagen in July 1980. The present Conference might wish to take note of the following documents which were submitted to the Conference in Copenhagen: "The effects of apartheid on the status of women in South Africa and Namibia" (A/CONF.94/7/Rev.1) and "Measures of assistance for women in southern Africa" (A/CONF.94/6/Rev.1). Note may also be taken of two seminars held in 1980 in Montreal and Helsinki on women under apartheid, the reports of which subsequently served as a background paper for the World Conference (A/CONF.94/BP.17). Another background paper presented for the Conference was entitled "Effects of apartheid on the employment of women in South Africa and a history of the role of women in the trade unions" (A/CONF.94/BP.16).

3. Attention may be drawn to the International Conference on Women and Apartheid which was organized in Brussels in May 1982 <sup>1/</sup> by the Special Committee against Apartheid in co-operation with the International Committee of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa and Namibia.

4. The attention of the present Conference is drawn to a special study on the effects of the policy of apartheid on black women and children in South Africa (E/CN.4/1497), prepared by the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on southern Africa, in accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolution 5 (XXXVII).

<sup>1/</sup> See A/AC.115/L.571.