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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN  
Twenty-eighth session  
Vienna, 25 February-5 March 1980  
Item (4) of the provisional agenda

QUESTION OF ELABORATING A DRAFT DECLARATION ON THE  
PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE STRUGGLE FOR THE  
STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY  
AND AGAINST COLONIALISM, RACISM, RACIAL  
DISCRIMINATION, FOREIGN AGGRESSION AND OCCUPATION  
AND ALL FORMS OF FOREIGN DOMINATION

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

This report was prepared in compliance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/29. It contains the text of a draft declaration submitted by the German Democratic Republic, as well as excerpts from replies received from 19 Governments and a brief summary of replies received from specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council concerning the nature and content of a draft declaration on the participation of women in the struggle for the strengthening of international peace and security and against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, foreign aggression and occupation and all forms of foreign domination.

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## INTRODUCTION

1. The present report has been prepared by the Secretariat of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women in compliance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/29 of 5 May 1978, entitled "Question of elaborating a draft declaration on the participation of women in the struggle for the strengthening of international peace and security and against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, foreign aggression and occupation and all forms of foreign domination".
2. In paragraph 1 of that resolution, the Economic and Social Council invited all Governments, the specialized agencies, international intergovernmental organizations and concerned non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to transmit to the Secretary-General their views and/or proposals concerning the nature and content of a draft declaration on the participation of women in the struggle for the strengthening of international peace and security and against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, foreign aggression and occupation and all forms of foreign domination.
3. In paragraph 2 the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit the views and/or proposals received, to the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-eighth session.
4. In paragraph 3 the Council requested the Commission on the Status of Women to consider at its twenty-eighth session, in the light of those views and/or proposals, the question of elaborating a draft declaration with a view to submitting it to the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women.
5. It may be recalled that the General Assembly, in resolution 32/142 of 16 December 1977, entitled "Women's participation in the strengthening of international peace and security and in the struggle against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, foreign aggression and occupation and all forms of foreign domination", had requested the Commission on the Status of Women to consider, as a contribution to the preparation of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, the elaboration of a draft declaration on the subject.
6. Also, in resolution 34/158, the General Assembly, reiterating its resolution 32/142, again urged the Commission on the Status of Women to consider at its twenty-eighth session the question of elaborating a draft declaration.
7. On 29 January 1979, the Secretary-General invited States, the specialized agencies and other international intergovernmental organizations, and concerned non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to furnish views and/or proposals on the nature and content of a draft declaration on the subject.
8. At the time of the preparation of the present report, views and proposals were

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received from 19 States, 1/ three specialized agencies, 2/ and 13 non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. 3/

9. In order to conform with United Nations directives on control and limitation of documentation, only excerpts from Governments' replies have been reproduced below. Owing to technical constraints, the replies of the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations have been summarized.

10. Of the Governments that replied to the Secretary-General's note verbale, 12 4/ supported the elaboration of a draft declaration with a view to its submission for consideration by the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace. Several of these Governments supported the elaboration of the declaration on the grounds that it would promote one of the main objectives of the Decade - namely, Peace. The German Democratic Republic provided the full text of a draft declaration.

11. The Central African Republic stated that it had no particular objections to a draft declaration.

12. Three Governments 5/ opposed the adoption of a declaration, mainly on the grounds that it would divert time and attention from other subjects where the Commission on the Status of Women might make a more worthwhile contribution. The Netherlands considered that the elaboration of the draft declaration should not be given high priority in the programme of work of the United Nations organs and forums concerned with the position of women.

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1/ Australia, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Central African Republic, Cuba, Egypt, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mali, Mauritius, Mongolia, Nepal (to be reproduced in an addendum to this report), Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United States of America.

2/ International Labour Office, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Bank.

3/ Category I: International Alliance of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, Women's International Democratic Federation.  
Category II: Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization, International Association of Democratic Lawyers, International Council of Jewish Women, International Federation of University Women, International Social Service, International University Exchange Fund, Socialist International, Lutheran World Federation, World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations, World Young Women's Christian Association.

4/ Byelorussian SSR, Cuba, Egypt, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mauritius, Mongolia, Philippines, Poland, Ukrainian SSR, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates.

5/ Australia, New Zealand, the United States of America.

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13. Mali did not state its position with respect to the elaboration of a draft declaration, but described the activities of the National Union of Malian Women in favour of peace.
14. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) reported that the question of elaborating a draft declaration bore a close relationship to resolution 13.2 adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its twentieth session in 1979. It suggested areas which could be included in the draft declaration.
15. The International Labour Office referred to the Declaration on Equality of Opportunity and Treatment for Women Workers, whose general principles are valid in respect of the role of women in the fields envisaged by Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/29.
16. The World Bank indicated that, in so far as development contributed to strengthening international peace and security, its policy was in line with the objectives of the draft declaration.
17. Eleven of the non-governmental organizations 6/ that replied to the note verbale supported the principles contained in Council resolution 1978/29. Four of them 7/ commented specifically on the content of a draft declaration and furnished suggestions in this respect. Others expressed their general views on the nature of a draft declaration and the role of women in matters relating to international peace and security.
18. The International Federation of Business and Professional Women expressed the view that the Commission on the Status of Women should vote against elaborating a draft declaration. However, it made comments on the nature of a declaration should such a declaration be drafted.
19. The International Federation of University Women stated that it did not see the need for drawing up a draft declaration.
20. Some replies drew attention to the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, as well as to the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace, adopted by the General Assembly in
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- 6/ International Alliance of Women, Women's International Democratic Federation (Category I), Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization, International Association of Democratic Lawyers, International Council of Jewish Women, International Social Service, International University Exchange Fund, Socialist International, Lutheran World Federation, World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations, World Young Women's Christian Association (Category II).
- 7/ Women's International Democratic Federation (Category I), International Council of Jewish Women, Lutheran World Federation, World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (Category II).

resolution 33/73 of 15 December 1978, which contain the ideas relevant to the draft declaration envisaged in Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/29. Reference was also made to the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict. 8/

21. Several replies indicated that the ideas of the proposed draft declaration served to promote realization of the provisions and decisions taken by the World Conference of the International Women's Year, held at Mexico City, in particular the Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and Their Contribution to Development and Peace, 1975, the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year, and other decisions on the status of women adopted within the framework of the United Nations.

22. Some respondents favoured the adoption of the Draft Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women before the consideration of the proposed draft declaration.

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8/ See General Assembly resolution 3318 (XXIX).

I. OBSERVATIONS AND PROPOSALS CONCERNING THE NATURE AND  
CONTENT OF A DRAFT DECLARATION: EXCERPTS FROM  
REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

AUSTRALIA

/Original: English/

/30 April 1979/

While the Australian Government is sensitive to the broad objectives enumerated in the resolution in question, it is opposed to the adoption by the United Nations of a declaration of the kind envisaged.

It considers that the approach proposed embodies a distinction on the basis of sex in areas which do not warrant such a distinction, serving only to emphasize unnecessarily the role of one to the detriment of the other. In that way, it would detract from the consensus which, up to the present, had assured the united and equal role of men and women ... The Australian Government therefore considers that the issues raised in the proposed declaration are more appropriately the subject of discussion in areas of the United Nations where such questions were customarily addressed.

The Australian Government is concerned to maximize the benefit accruing to women from activities undertaken in association with the United Nations Decade for Women and strongly supports the principal aims of the Decade. It considers, however, that the proposed declaration did not fully accord with those aims and would inevitably divert attention from the more limited but pressing areas such as employment, health and education ... which were conducive to practical and useful action on a multilateral level.

In conclusion, it is considered that such a declaration would be devoid of practical import for women. It believes that the interests of the United Nations, and of its work on behalf of women would best be served by a decision not to draft and adopt a declaration on this subject.

BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

/Original: Russian/

/30 May 1979/

The Byelorussian SSR supported General Assembly resolution 32/142, in which the General Assembly requested the Commission on the Status of Women to consider the elaboration of a draft declaration ...

The Byelorussian SSR is convinced that ... active participation of women on an equal footing with men in the political, economic, social and cultural life of

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the country is an important pre-condition for the all-round development of society. It would consider it appropriate to note in the declaration that the attainment of lasting peace and social progress and the guaranteeing of human rights is possible only with the active co-operation of women on the basis of equality. Discrimination against women, which is still the case in a number of regions of the world, is an obstacle to women's active participation in the solution of many international problems.

The declaration should indicate that the necessary conditions for bringing about full equality of rights for women throughout the world are created by the preservation and strengthening of peace, international co-operation on the basis of equality of rights and in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, respect for the sovereignty of all States and non-interference in their internal affairs, implementation of the right of peoples to self-determination, and the non-use of force or the threat of force in international relations.

The draft declaration should include provisions enshrined in a number of progressive decisions of the United Nations on questions of the struggle for peace, against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination and apartheid, and also in the 1975 Declaration of Mexico ...

In the drafting of the declaration it must be borne in mind that the principal prerequisites for the free development of women throughout the world is the implementation of the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, and in particular the implementation of the right of each State to choose its own path to development, to manage its own natural resources and to advocate for the establishment of equitable international economic relations.

It is important that the declaration should emphasize that States must create the necessary conditions for women to participate on an equal footing with men in the struggle against the arms race and for disarmament.

Attention should be focused on the fact that the struggle to strengthen peace and international security is inseparably linked to the struggle of peoples against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, foreign aggression and all forms of foreign domination. The important role which women are called upon to play in this struggle should therefore be taken into account. Note should also be taken of the contribution they make to the cause of broadening and strengthening co-operation and friendly relations between States with differing social structures.

It is desirable for the declaration to stress the importance of adhering to the norms of international humanitarian law in order to resolve the problem of protection of women and children in emergency and armed-conflicts in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence.

The declaration might also include a provision containing recommendations to States to exert appropriate influence on the mass media so that they may widely inform public opinion regarding the active role of women in the struggle for the strengthening of peace and against colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination.

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It is the view of the Byelorussian SSR that the adoption of /a proposed/ ... declaration will help to integrate women into the active struggle for peace and for the strengthening of international security, and will also promote the attainment of the aims of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace.

## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

/Original: French//22 June 1979/

The Central African Republic ... has no particular objections to the draft declaration.

## CUBA

/Original: Spanish//31 May 1979/

The Republic of Cuba attaches particular importance to the preparation of such a draft declaration as an input to the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, to be held in 1980, since only if universal peace for all States is guaranteed and in an atmosphere of international security can the provisions of the Mexico Declaration, the World Plan of Action and other resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in connexion with the United Nations Decade for Women be implemented.

... /T/he proposed draft declaration should include reference to the following ideas:

(a) The full economic and social development of a country, the welfare of the world and the cause of peace require the fullest participation by men and women in every sphere of activity;

(b) Women, who constitute one half of the world's population and who, together with their children, have had great suffering, as a result of war inflicted upon them, have an important role to play in the all-around strengthening of world peace and international security with the aim of promoting the economic, social and cultural development of peoples;

(c) The continued existence of areas in the world which are still living under colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, aggression and foreign occupation constitutes a very serious violation of the principles of the United Nations Charter and, hence, a serious threat to international peace and security;

(d) It is incumbent on States to join in efforts to attain the objectives of the Decade through universal solidarity among all women, with the aim of intensifying

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efforts to strengthen international peace and security, since the more resolute and active the participation of women is in this field, the sooner victory will be achieved, and with it, a better and more just world.

EGYPT

/Original: English/  
/1 June 1979/

The Egyptian Government supports the elaboration of a draft declaration ... This document should be inspired by the principles and ideas contained in all the previous resolutions of the United Nations related to the subject, and in particular the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict.

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

/Original: English/  
/13 June 1979/

The German Democratic Republic ... transmits a draft declaration on the participation of women in the struggle for the strengthening of international peace and security and against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, foreign aggression, occupation and all forms of foreign domination. 9/

HUNGARY

/Original: English/  
/30 July 1979/

The interests of the whole of mankind and the cause of social progress require the extension of the process of détente, the strengthening of international peace and security and the promotion of disarmament ...

Women, making up more than half of mankind, have a determining role to play in the development of the world situation, as was underlined and reaffirmed by the slogan of the International Women's Year which laid down the strengthening of international co-operation and world peace as a fundamental task of the Decade for Women ...

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9/ For the full text of the draft declaration submitted by the German Democratic Republic, see chap. II below.

The full equality of women and their many-sided participation in the development of their respective countries are fundamental human rights, the exercise of which alone makes it possible for women to be actively involved in the struggle for peace and security as well as against colonialism and aggression on the national and international plane alike.

The Hungarian Government attaches great importance to the adoption of a declaration ... Adoption of such a declaration by the United Nations can have a great motivating force and thereby contribute significantly to the efforts for advancing the cause of international peace and security, disarmament and women's equality.

The underlying ideas of a draft declaration could be the following:

- (a) /C/reation - also by way of eliminating colonialism, racism, apartheid, neo-colonialism, and wars of aggression - of the necessary pre-conditions for the assertion of women's equality;
- (b) /P/romotion of all means of women's participation, on an equal footing with men, in the struggle for safeguarding peace and achieving disarmament;
- (c) /P/rovision of support and assistance to women who are victims of aggression, colonialism, racism, apartheid, oppression and any form of exploitation;
- (d) /E/ducation of children for mutual respect for peoples and nations, the equality of races and sexes, the promotion of international co-operation and social progress, and the maintenance of peace, the main emphasis being laid on the role and responsibility of women and mothers in such educational activity.

MALI

/Original: French/  
/31 July 1979/

The Government of Mali, in reply to Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/29 of 5 May 1978, transmits the document "The Activities of the National Union of Malian Women in Favour of Peace throughout the World". /The document describes the contribution of Malian women to the struggle for the strengthening of international peace and security and against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, foreign aggression and occupation and all forms of foreign domination./ 10/

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10/ The full text of this reply is reproduced in document A/34/471 and is available at the United Nations Secretariat.

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MAURITIUS

/Original: English/

/10 May 1979/

The Government of Mauritius is in favour of the elaboration of a draft declaration ...

... /L/ike men, women of Mauritius are interested in seeing that measures are taken to construct a healthier society, to foster peace and to strive for better living conditions, all of which are related to the struggle for the strengthening of international peace and security and against all forms of domination.

The Government of Mauritius recognized the importance of the role which women can play in such a struggle and feels it is its duty to suggest that the draft declaration should:

(a) /T/ry to strengthen the consciousness of women as equal partners of men and call upon them to foster such consciousness in all fields where men and women work together;

(b) /H/int at the fact that apart from the positive action they are apt to take in the day-to-day life, women have the natural and sacred vocation of bringing up a new generation of individuals free from prejudices, imbued with mutual respect and capable of making its contribution to a better world;

(c) /S/tress the fact that the successful participation in the struggle for the strengthening of international peace and security depends on women's unity and firmness of action throughout the world.

Lastly, it would be important to underline this struggle, which is meant to support the claims and rights of a section of the world population, whose conditions of living have not, by far, reached a standard acceptable to human dignity.

MONGOLIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC

/Original: Russian/

/15 November 1979/

The Mongolian People's Republic attaches great importance to the elaboration ... of a draft declaration ... determined by the fact that women at the present time are becoming an increasingly important political and social force. Society cannot function without their contribution. They produce a significant part of all the material and spiritual values of mankind. Women also play an increasing role in the struggle for the social and national liberation of peoples, for fundamental human rights and for a lasting and just peace.

Nevertheless, many countries lack the conditions which would guarantee women

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equal social and civil rights and provide them with opportunities for free development and unlimited application of their creative abilities. This situation is further aggravated by the fact that the threat of war has not yet been eliminated from the world, the material preparation for war in the form of the increasing arms race continues, hot-beds of tension persist, and attempts at imperialist intervention, including armed intervention, in the affairs of sovereign States and peoples continue.

Millions of people, including women and children, are the victims of these pernicious phenomena. It is therefore essential that women should take an active part on an equal basis with men in the struggle for peace and security, détente and disarmament, national and social liberation, the democracy and the progress of peoples, and against imperialism, colonialism, racism, aggression and foreign domination. This would also be in keeping with one of the main goals of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace.

... The draft declaration should include the following:

(a) A guarantee of the broad participation of women on an equal basis in all spheres of public life: political, economic, social and cultural;

(b) The elimination of all barriers: legal, social or moral, which impede the participation of women in the solution of questions relating to the foreign and domestic policy of States;

(c) A guarantee of the active participation of women in the solution of vital problems of the present time, such as the preservation of universal peace, the strengthening of international détente, the achievement of disarmament, and the elimination of colonialism, racism and foreign domination;

(d) The mobilization of the efforts of the United Nations and its specialized agencies and of all States of the world and their Governments, Parliaments and public organizations in order to achieve the three basic goals of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace; the securing of the implementation of decisions of the General Assembly and other international forums held as part of the Decade, including the resolutions and other important documents adopted at the 1975 World Conference in Mexico.

The Mongolian People's Republic considers that the speedy elaboration of a draft declaration at the 1980 World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women would be a significant contribution towards the achievement of the goals of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace.

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## NETHERLANDS

/Original: English/

/5 April 1979/

The Government of the Netherlands is of the opinion that the elaboration of the above-mentioned declaration should not be given high priority in the programmes of work of United Nations organs and fora concerned with the position of women. The Netherlands has repeatedly stated that the strengthening of the role of women in economic and social development and their participation in the political life of their countries first and foremost requires practical action-oriented approaches. The problems facing women throughout the world are manifold, and in many countries, women's basic needs are not yet met: a shortage of employment opportunities exists, the illiteracy rate for girls is disproportionately high, health care is not adequate, etc. It is these problems that should be given high priority. The General Assembly, in fact, appeared to be of the same opinion when it adopted resolution 33/185 in which it, inter alia, decided on the subtheme "Health, Employment and Education" for the World Conference for the Decade of Women. By stressing this particular subtheme, the General Assembly, by implication, emphasized the importance of these particular practical problems for the programme of the second half of the decade.

The elaboration of international standards on the role of women ... is still an important element of the United Nations work for the improvement of the position of women, which hopefully will culminate in the adoption of the Draft Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women by the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly. After this legislative period, however, it is time for the United Nations to direct its full attention on measures to encourage Governments to apply the standards adopted and to ensure to women the rights proclaimed. It is this difficult task which should now be given the highest priority.

## NEW ZEALAND

/Original: English/

/16 May 1979/

New Zealand voted against both General Assembly resolution 32/142 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/29 ... and it also expressed its opposition to the preparation of a draft declaration in the Commission on the Status of Women in January 1978. New Zealand's views on the subject are unchanged.

The New Zealand Government considers that means should first be provided to protect women against discrimination in the broadest sense and to encourage their participation in all facets of national and international life. New Zealand gives high priority to the completion of an International Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and would wish to see this fundamental instrument finalized before considering a new initiative involving a much wider range of issues.

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There is, of course, no disagreement about the need to strengthen international peace and security, nor the contribution women can make to this objective. In view, however, of the existing international instruments covering the strengthening of international peace and security, New Zealand considers that the Commission on the Status of Women should not be diverted at this time towards a major new task while a very real need remains to be met in the area for which the Commission has prime responsibility - namely, the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, and the promotion of their well-being and participation in national and international life.

## PHILIPPINES

/Original: English//21 June 1979/

The National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women is of the opinion that a draft declaration ... should, among other things, emphasize respect for national territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence and the freedom of national choice for any socio-economic or political system. The draft declaration should also uphold the right of free choice, which is the essence of the principle of self-determination. In this context, it also means freedom from political and economic interference, which are the most insidious means of undermining the stability of a State.

A purpose of the draft declaration should be to recognize the need for women ... to have an important role to play in promoting internal peace and security, which, in the final analysis, renders international peace and security possible. To achieve this purpose, the necessary conditions and environment for women to operate in the national setting must be created. Equally important, international organizations must provide the necessary support and appropriate institutional framework for the development of this role.

This could take the form of exchanges of information among women's groups designed to encourage and promote activities geared toward the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and their wider participation in all sectors of national life, and assistance from the United Nations and its specialized agencies, either in the form of financial support or through consultants' and experts' services, to national programmes aimed at giving women the necessary training, skills and opportunities for self-improvement and self-development.

The declaration should contain an exhortation for increased participation of women in international conferences and negotiations, and for the Governments and agencies concerned to assure such participation. For this purpose, Governments should give priority to educational opportunities for women. Women should also be made more aware of their respective Governments' activities and positions in vital questions of international affairs. Such awareness would provide them with the proper outlook to fulfil their roles in the struggle to strengthen international peace and security and against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, foreign aggression and occupation and all forms of foreign domination.

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POLAND

/Original: English/  
/10 July 1979/

The maintenance of international peace and security is one of the fundamental purposes of the United Nations. Therefore, it is a matter of deep concern that despite many resolutions passed by the General Assembly and the Security Council, as well as other United Nations bodies, international conferences, symposiums and meetings, the world community is still faced with the painful vestiges of colonialism, racial discrimination, aggression and foreign occupation.

The standpoint of the Polish People's Republic in this regard has remained unchanged over the last 35 years. On numerous occasions we have voiced our strong condemnation of those practices and actively contributed to the formulation of international instruments seeking suppression and punishment of these crimes against humanity. This standpoint derives both from the most cruel historical experiences endured by the Poles during the Second World War, as well as from the philosophy of the internal and foreign policy pursued by socialist Poland. As it was stated in the message delivered by the President of the Council of State of the Polish People's Republic to the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, held last year in Geneva,

"... The Polish People's Republic and its people voice their resolute and consistent support for the principles of common equality and spare no effort for the purpose of full implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention on Suppression and Punishment of the Crimes of Apartheid, condemn all forms of racism and racial discrimination and render their full political, moral and material support for peoples fighting for the realization of their basic human rights."

It is the common conviction that the existence of these cases of mass and flagrant violation of human rights endangers peace and international security and makes the attainment of such goals as development and social progress in the world impossible. There is also a conviction that the current United Nations Decade for Women shall contribute decisively to the eradication of these practices ... The Government of the Polish People's Republic finds the proposed draft declaration ... an extremely useful tool in striving for the attainment of those lofty goals. It is stated in the 1975 Declaration on the Equality of Women and their Contribution to Development and Peace that "women of the entire world, whatever differences exist between them, ... will become natural allies in the struggle against any form of oppression, such as is practised under colonialism, neo-colonialism, zionism, racial discrimination and apartheid, thereby constituting an enormous revolutionary potential for economic and social change in the world today" and ... that "women have a vital role to play in the promotion of peace in all spheres of life: in the family, the community, the nation and the world. Women must participate equally with men in the decision-making processes which help to promote peace at all levels." Having this in mind, the Government of the Polish People's Republic

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considers the ideas of the proposed draft declaration as being the most appropriate form of implementation of the results of the 1975 Mexico City Conference.

.../T/ he thirty-third session of the General Assembly had made an important step toward a further improvement of international peace and security by adopting the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace. The primary purpose of this significant document is strengthening international security and détente and realization of the main purpose of humanity ... Therefore, since the ideas contained in the proposed draft declaration also seek the achievement of these noble goals, they have the full support of the Government of the Polish People's Republic. At the same time, to underline the close relationship between the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace and the proposed draft declaration ... it is considered useful to incorporate a new preambular paragraph into the draft which could read:

"Having in mind the ideas contained in the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace 1/ adopted by the General Assembly during its thirty-third session and reaffirming the special role women should play in the process of bringing up new generations;"

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"1/ General Assembly resolution 33/173."

UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

/Original: Russian/

/16 November 1979/

The Ukrainian SSR considers that there is an extremely urgent need to prepare ... a draft declaration. It believes that the approval of such a document would be a significant contribution to the achievement of the important goals of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, and would enhance the role of women in the struggle for a lasting and just peace, for full equality and for social progress.

It is important that Governments should create favourable conditions for the participation of women and men on an equal basis in the achievement of the noble goals, enumerated in the title of a draft declaration.

The future document should emphasize the fact that the essential conditions for the achievement of full equality of rights for women are as follows:

(a) /T/ he maintenance and strengthening of international peace and security, the achievement of general and complete disarmament, the deepening of the process of international détente, the achievement of international co-operation on an equal basis in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, respect for the sovereignty of all States and non-interference in their internal affairs, and the non-use of force or the threat of force in international relations;

/...

(b) /T/he elimination of the policy of aggression, colonialism and neo-colonialism, racism, all forms of racial discrimination, apartheid, foreign domination and hegemonism.

In the view of the Ukrainian SSR, the future document should reflect the following elements:

(a) The creation of conditions for the participation of women and men on an equal basis in political, economic, social and cultural life; the solution of questions relating to the internal and foreign policy of countries; efforts to establish and strengthen universal peace; efforts to achieve social progress, democracy and guarantees of human rights; the struggle for the realization of the supreme human right - the right to a peaceful life; the struggle for disarmament, and the reduction of military budgets and the use of the resources thus released to solve urgent social and economic problems;

(b) The need for strict compliance by States with the rules of international humanitarian law in order to protect women and children in exceptional circumstances during periods of armed conflict;

(c) The need for States to exert their influence on the mass information media in order to keep the public widely informed about the participation of women in the struggle for the strengthening of peace and against colonialism, racism, apartheid, aggression, foreign domination and occupation;

(d) The need to mobilize the efforts of States, the United Nations and its specialized agencies, and women's and other organizations and movements at the international and national levels to implement the recommendations of the 1975 Declaration of Mexico, the World Plan of Action, the Programme for the United Nations Decade for Women and other United Nations decisions concerning women's participation in and contribution to development and the struggle for peace.

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

/Original: Russian/

/15 August 1979/

The elaboration in the United Nations of a draft declaration ... for consideration by the 1980 World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, would be important and timely, as it serves to promote one of the main objectives of the Decade - to increase the role of women in the struggle for a lasting and just peace, complete equality of rights and social progress ... Despite numerous decisions of the United Nations aimed at strengthening peace and security, eradicating colonialism, racism and apartheid, and preventing aggression, occupation and other forms of foreign domination, the world is not yet rid of the threat of war, centres of tension continue to exist, and millions of people, including women and children, are being victimized by the policies of colonialism and neo-colonialism, racism and apartheid and are suffering

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as a result of foreign aggression and occupation. Women have a prominent role to play in the struggle for peace and social progress.

The draft declaration should reflect the following points:

(a) The active participation of women on an equal footing with men in political, economic, social and cultural life and in solving problems of the foreign and domestic policy of States is a vital pre-condition for the over-all development of society;

(b) The attainment of world peace, democracy and social progress and the realization of human rights is possible only through the active and equal participation of all members of society, both men and women. The discrimination against women which still exists in many areas of the world is a serious obstacle to their active participation in the solution of major international problems;

(c) The maintenance and strengthening of peace, the attainment of general and complete disarmament, international co-operation on the basis of equality and in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, respect for the sovereignty of all States and non-interference in their internal affairs, the realization of peoples' right to self-determination, and the non-use of force or the threat of force in international relations are essential conditions for achieving full equality for women.

In this connexion, particular emphasis should be placed on the need to find as speedily as possible, a solution to today's most urgent problem - the problem of disarmament. The accelerating and expanding development, production and deployment of new types of weapons and weapons systems is taking on an increasingly dangerous aspect. It is therefore the noble duty of all people, including women, to work for the achievement of real disarmament. As the experience of various women's organizations shows, the fight against the arms race and for disarmament is occupying an increasingly important place in their activities. Women are aware that, under conditions of peace and détente, the enormous resources absorbed by the arms race could be directed towards solving urgent social problems, including maternal and child welfare and the improvement of education and health care, all of which is in accordance with such important goals of the United Nations Decade for Women as ensuring equal rights for women and involving women in the development process;

(d) The campaign for the maintenance and strengthening of international peace and security, for disarmament and for the deepening of the process of détente is directly related to the struggle of peoples against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, apartheid, aggression and all forms of foreign domination.

In this connexion, it should be particularly noted that the policies of aggression, foreign domination, colonialism and neo-colonialism, racism and apartheid pursued by certain circles in a number of areas of the world constitute a glaring violation of the United Nations Charter and of many other important United Nations documents, hinder the exercise of democratic freedoms and of the right of peoples to

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self-determination, and threaten the security of peoples and peace throughout the world. Women and children are the first victims of the policies of aggression, domination and oppression;

(e) The importance of observing the norms of humanitarian law in order to deal with the problem of protecting women and children in the exceptional circumstances of armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence;

(f) A recommendation to States to bring the appropriate influence to bear on the mass media to provide all possible assistance in involving women in the struggle to strengthen peace and combat colonialism, racism, apartheid, aggression, occupation and foreign domination and to provide the public with broad coverage of women's participation in this struggle.

The observance of the United Nations Decade for Women affords extensive opportunities for a significant advance in the achievement of genuine equality for women in all spheres of public life and in involving them more deeply in the fight for peace and international co-operation, democracy, social progress and the restructuring of international economic relations on a just, equal and mutually beneficial basis. The outcome of this struggle largely depends on women's participation in it. It is important, in order to make maximum use of the new prospects which have opened up in connexion with the United Nations Decade for Women:

(a) To promote by all possible means the further involvement of women in the common fight of the peoples for the realization of the highest human right - the right to a peaceful life, to disarmament, and to the reduction of military budgets and the use of the resources thus released in order to solve crucial social and economic problems;

(b) To mobilize the efforts of the United Nations, its specialized agencies, Governments, Parliaments, and women's and other public organizations and movements at both the international and the national level for the practical implementation of the recommendations addressed to them in the 1975 Mexico City Declaration ... in the World Plan of Action, in the programme of the United Nations Decade for Women, and in other decisions on the status of women adopted within the United Nations;

(c) To step up the campaign for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 3093 (XXVIII) concerning reduction of the military budgets of States permanent members of the Security Council by 10 per cent and utilization of part of the funds thus saved to provide assistance to developing countries, inter alia, in meeting the needs of women and children;

(d) To promote to the fullest extent the combined efforts of the world public and the international community directed towards the attainment of all three of the programme goals of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, since true equality for women and an improvement in their socio-economic

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status are essential pre-conditions for the successful development of any country, and this is possible only under conditions of lasting peace and co-operation among peoples on the basis of equality.

The decisions adopted at international gatherings taking place within the framework of the Decade ... provide a good starting point and a new legal basis for strengthening and developing the positive experience in co-operation gained by the United Nations, governmental organizations and various social forces in the course of the International Women's Year and of the first half of the United Nations Decade for Women in pursuit of the goals of equality, development and peace ...

The implementation of these decisions through combined efforts should promote more active and effective participation by women in political and social life and in solving the historical tasks of our time relating to the strengthening of peace and the security of peoples, disarmament and national and social liberation.

The adoption of a declaration by the 1980 World Conference ... will unquestionably help to focus the attention of Governments and women on these acute problems and will mobilize the entire world community in the search for concrete and effective means of solving them, which, in turn, will promote the attainment of the lofty and noble goals of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

/Original: English/

/29 March 1979/

The Government of the United Arab Emirates supports, in principle, Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/29.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

/Original: English/

/18 May 1979/

On ideological grounds, the United States believes that elaboration of such a declaration would achieve no practical purpose, and would involve a great deal of time, money and energy which would result in an undue amount of highly inflammatory political rhetoric. This initiative would divert time from other more worth-while subjects where the Commission on the Status of Women might make a more worth-while contribution.

Moreover, the United Nations should not consider elaborating such a declaration, particularly at the present time, because it is now in the process of completing the Draft Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. It is

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unnecessary to pursue another initiative aimed at standard-setting when it has not completed its first task.

It would prove most unfortunate to burden the 1980 World Conference for the Decade for Women with preparations for a document which is politically controversial and of questionable value in achieving progress in the status of women.

## II. TEXT OF A DRAFT DECLARATION SUBMITTED BY THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

### Draft Declaration on the Participation of Women in the Struggle for the Strengthening of International Peace and Security and against Colonialism, Racism, Racial Discrimination, Foreign Aggression, Occupation and all Forms of Foreign Domination

#### The World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women,

Recalling that the World Conference of the International Women's Year in the Declaration of Mexico, 1975, stressed the "vital role" women have "in the promotion of peace in all spheres of life: in the family, the community, the nation and the world" and demanded that women must therefore "participate equally with men in the decision-making processes which help to promote peace at all levels",

Recalling further that the same World Conference decided in the World Plan of Action that "in order to involve more women in the promotion of international co-operation, the development of friendly relations among nations, the strengthening of international peace and disarmament, and in combating colonialism, neo-colonialism, foreign domination and alien subjugation, apartheid and racial discrimination, the peace efforts of women as individuals and in groups and in national and international organizations should be recognized and encouraged",

Convinced that the maintenance and strengthening of peace, sustained international co-operation based on equal rights, respect for the sovereignty of all States and non-interference in their internal affairs, the implementation of the right of peoples to self-determination, non-resort to the use or threat of force in international relations pursuant to the Charter of the United Nations, and the restructuring of international economic relations along democratic lines in conformity with the principles of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States are fundamental and indispensable prerequisites for a world-wide enforcement of full equality of rights for women,

Taking into account that the liberation of peoples and the elimination of colonialism, racism, apartheid and fascism and of any foreign occupation, which place particular burdens on women and mothers, are inseparably linked with efforts to maintain international peace and security and to consolidate and expand political détente,

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Expressing serious concern at the persistence of the arms race and the continued existence of sources of tension and crisis and of colonialist and racist oppression,

Reaffirming that a secure peace, social progress and comprehensive guarantees of human rights are attainable only with the active and equal co-operation of women, and with men and women sharing in their common responsibility,

Noting that despite progress towards the achievement of an equal status for women, considerable discriminations continue to exist in various parts of the world, which impedes the active participation of women in the solution of vital international problems,

Reaffirming the need to intensify international co-operation in respect of the participation of women in the struggle for strengthening international peace and security in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 3519 (XXX) of 15 December 1975 and 32/142 of 16 December 1977.

Commending the important role already played by women in all countries in the strengthening of international peace and security and in the expansion of co-operation among States on equal terms and in the elimination of any manifestation of discrimination,

Declares solemnly:

## I

### Article 1

The participation of women in the endeavour to implement the right to life in peace as a fundamental human right shall be encouraged. To this end the participation of women on equal terms with men in the struggle to safeguard peace shall be promoted by all appropriate means.

### Article 2

In accordance with their obligation to maintain peace, States shall create the necessary prerequisites for women to participate without hindrance in the struggle against the arms race and for disarmament. Resources released as a result of effective measures of disarmament shall be used to promote economic and social development, to solve global problems of mankind and to provide assistance to developing countries. In this context particular attention shall be given to the advancement of women and to the protection of mother and child.

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### Article 3

Colonialism, apartheid, racial discrimination, neo-colonialism and all forms of foreign aggression, the acquisition of foreign territory by force and foreign occupation, as well as the economic and social consequences thereof, shall be eliminated to create essential prerequisites for the world-wide and unrestricted enforcement of equal rights for women.

### Article 4

All forms of oppression and inhuman treatment of women on account of their advocacy of peace and the right of peoples to self-determination, such as massacre, imprisonment, torture, devastation of homes, and forced evacuation and reprisals, shall be condemned as crimes against humanity and as gross violations of human rights.

Comprehensive solidarity and assistance shall be rendered to those women who are victims of aggression, colonialism, racism, apartheid, oppression, exploitation and fascism and are compelled to live under most adverse conditions.

### Article 5

With a view to safeguarding international peace and creating appropriate socio-economic conditions for the free development of women, the implementation of the sovereign right of every State to establish an economic order of its own choice and to utilize its own natural resources, the democratic restructuring of international economic relations in accordance with the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and the reduction of differences in the level of developed and developing countries in conformity with the decisions of the sixth and seventh special sessions of the United Nations General Assembly shall be ensured everywhere in the world.

## II

Calls upon all States to take the following action in order to give effect to the principles set out above:

(a) To support the efforts of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations aimed at the strengthening of international peace and security, the development of friendly relations among States and the promotion of active co-operation of States. Women should be encouraged to actively participate in and to support the efforts of such organizations;

(b) To adopt appropriate programmes to ensure the active co-operation of women in the attainment of the goals contained in the present Declaration;

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(c) To promote the exchange of experience at the national and international levels for the purpose of enhancing the involvement of women in the efforts of peoples for peace and their struggle for national independence and against colonialism, racism, apartheid, foreign aggression and occupation;

(d) To give effective publicity to the active role played by women in the struggle for peace, respect and understanding for all nations and peoples, for racial equality and equality of the sexes, for the implementation of the right of every nation to self-determination and for international co-operation, and against colonialism, apartheid, and racial discrimination, and to influence the work of mass media accordingly;

(e) To pay tribute to the contribution of women to the struggle for the safeguarding of peace and against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, aggression, occupation and all forms of foreign domination by proclaiming special days and by other marks of appreciation;

### III

Appeals to the General Assembly and other organs of the United Nations to periodically review the progress made in promoting the equality of women in respect of their participation in the struggle for the safeguarding of world peace and against colonialism, racism, apartheid, foreign aggression and occupation as a reflection of their involvement in the political affairs of society.

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