

Bearing in mind the relevant recommendations of the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders³⁷ and of the Eighth Congress,³¹ as well as the relevant observations of the Seventh Congress,³⁸

Bearing in mind also the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979 and contained in the annex thereto, which guarantees the right of women to equal status with men,

Noting that, in its general recommendation No. 12, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that States parties should include in their periodic reports to the Committee information on measures undertaken to protect women against the incidence of all kinds of violence in everyday life occurring within the family, at the workplace or in any other area of social life,³⁹ and that the Committee had decided at its tenth session to undertake at its eleventh session a study of violence against women,⁴⁰

Noting, however, that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women does not explicitly address violence against women,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to recognize that violence against women must be countered by a wide variety of measures;

2. *Reminds* Member States that violence against women is an issue of equal rights that derives from a power imbalance between women and men in society;

3. *Urges* Member States to adopt, strengthen and enforce legislation prohibiting violence against women;

4. *Also urges* Member States to take all appropriate administrative, social and educational measures to protect women from all forms of physical or mental violence;

5. *Recommends* that a framework for an international instrument be developed in consultation with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women that would address explicitly the issue of violence against women;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, through the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, to convene in 1991 or 1992 a meeting, to be funded from extrabudgetary resources, of experts representing all regions and including representatives of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, to address the issue of violence against women and to discuss the possibilities of preparing an international instrument and the elements to

be contained therein, and to report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-sixth session;

7. *Urges* Governments at all levels to develop training programmes for members of the criminal justice and health-care systems, including police officers, doctors, nurses, social workers and members of the legal profession, to ensure sensitization to and fair administration of justice with respect to equality issues;

8. *Requests* Governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, other relevant bodies and academics, to undertake research into the causes of violence against women.

*12th plenary meeting
30 May 1991*

1991/19. Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General⁴¹ and the notes by the Secretary-General⁴² concerning the situation of Palestinian women living inside and outside the occupied Palestinian territory,

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,⁴⁴ in particular paragraph 260 thereof,

Recalling also its resolutions 1988/25 of 26 May 1988, 1989/34 of 24 May 1989 and 1990/11 of 24 May 1990,

Expressing concern at the persistent refusal of Israel to respect the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,⁴³

Taking into account the *intifadah* of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory against the Israeli occupation and its harmful effects on Palestinian women and children,

Dismayed at the continuation of the oppressive practices of Israel, including collective punishment, curfews, demolition of houses, closure of schools and universities, deportation, confiscation of land and measures that are particularly harmful to the Palestinian women and children in the occupied Palestinian territory,

Deeply alarmed by the continuation of the practice of settling Jewish immigrants in the territory occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, which is illegal and contravenes the relevant provisions of the Geneva Convention,

1. *Reaffirms* that the basic improvement of the living conditions of the Palestinian women, their advancement, full equality and self-reliance can only be achieved through an end to the Israeli occupation and the attainment of the right of Palestinians to return to their homes, their right to self-determination and their right to establish an independent Palestinian State in accordance with United Nations resolutions;

2. *Also reaffirms* that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of

³⁷ See *Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Caracas, 25 August-5 September 1980: report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.IV.4), chap. I.

³⁸ See *Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Milan, 26 August-6 September 1985: report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.IV.1).

³⁹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/44/38)*, chap. V.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, *Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/46/38)*.

⁴¹ E/CN.6/1988/8 and Corr.1 and E/CN.6/1989/4 and Corr.1.

⁴² E/CN.6/1990/10 and E/CN.6/1991/9.

⁴³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

War, of 12 August 1949, is applicable to the Palestinian people in the territory occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem;

3. *Demands* that an end be put to the oppressive Israeli measures against the *intifadah* and the consequent suffering experienced by Palestinian women and their families in the occupied Palestinian territory;

4. *Requests* the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to monitor the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in particular paragraph 260 thereof, which concerns assistance to Palestinian women and children both inside and outside the occupied Palestinian territory;

5. *Requests* governmental, non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, including organizations of the United Nations system, to continue to encourage and assist in existing income-generating activities for Palestinian women and in the creation of new jobs;

6. *Requests* that Palestinian women in the occupied Palestinian territory be assisted in developing small-scale industry and creating vocational training centres;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to monitor the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the mission of experts to Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic to investigate the condition of Palestinian women and children⁴⁴ in order to improve the situation of Palestinian women in the occupied Palestinian territory;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue his investigation of the situation of Palestinian women and children and to report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-sixth session on the implementation of the recommendations and conclusions contained in the report of the mission of experts.

*12th plenary meeting
30 May 1991*

1991/20. Women and children under apartheid

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1990/13 of 24 May 1990,

Recalling also the provisions of the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution S-16/1 of 14 December 1989 and contained in the annex thereto,

Noting the positive changes initiated by the Government of South Africa aimed at dismantling the system of apartheid,

Deeply concerned about the continuing degradation and abuse of African women and children by the white minority regime of South Africa, as noted in the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,⁴⁴

Recognizing that the equality of women and men cannot be achieved without the success of the struggle to-

⁴⁴ E/CN.6/1990/10, annex I.

wards a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on women and children living under apartheid;⁴⁵

2. *Commends* those women both inside and outside South Africa who have resisted oppression and who have remained steadfast in their opposition to apartheid;

3. *Urges* all parties engaged in negotiations for a post-apartheid society to ensure that the principle of equality between women and men is incorporated in all laws and institutions;

4. *Urges* the Government of South Africa to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women²⁹ at the earliest possible opportunity;

5. *Appeals* to all countries and United Nations bodies, in consultation with liberation movements, as appropriate, to increase their support for educational, health, vocational training and employment opportunities for women and children living under apartheid;

6. *Demands* the unconditional release of all political prisoners and detainees, among whom are women and children, in accordance with the undertaking of the President of South Africa;

7. *Urges* the international community to maintain all existing and any other necessary measures against South Africa until all the provisions of the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa have been met;

8. *Decides* that the Commission on the Status of Women should remain seized of the issue of women and children living under apartheid.

*12th plenary meeting
30 May 1991*

1991/21. Disabled women

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,³⁴ in particular paragraphs 277 to 282 and 296, in which disabled women are considered a vulnerable group,

Recalling also resolution 34/4 of 8 March 1990 of the Commission on the Status of Women,⁴⁶

Reaffirming its support for the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,¹⁸

Taking note with appreciation of Commission for Social Development resolution 32/2 of 20 February 1991 on the establishment of an ad hoc open-ended working group to elaborate standard rules on the equalization of opportunities for disabled persons,⁴⁷

Affirming its belief that all women, regardless of their situation, are able to contribute to and benefit from development on an equal basis,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Semi-

⁴⁵ E/CN.6/1991/8.

⁴⁶ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1990, Supplement No. 5 (E/1990/25)*, chap. I, sect. C.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, 1991, *Supplement No. 6 (E/1991/26)*, chap. I, sect. D.