

nar on Disabled Women, held at Vienna from 20 to 24 August 1990;<sup>48</sup>

2. *Invites* the Statistical Office of the Secretariat to continue to provide statistical information on women with disabilities;

3. *Recommends* that the focal points in the United Nations system for the advancement of women and for disability issues cooperate more closely in their efforts to give continuing attention to issues involving women with disabilities, especially at the operational level and in the developing countries, in particular the least developed among them;

4. *Invites* Governments to follow general recommendation No. 18 on disabled women, adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its tenth session;<sup>49</sup>

5. *Requests* the ad hoc open-ended working group to elaborate standard rules on the equalization of opportunities for disabled persons to pay attention to the particular needs of disabled women.

*12th plenary meeting  
30 May 1991*

#### **1991/22. National, regional and international machinery for the advancement of women**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 40/108 of 13 December 1985, in which the Assembly endorsed the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,<sup>34</sup>

*Bearing in mind* its resolution 1986/31 of 23 May 1986, in which it requested the Secretary-General, *inter alia*, to propose guidelines for national machinery to promote the advancement of women and ways to ensure the effective implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies,

*Recalling* its resolution 1988/30 of 26 May 1988, in which measures were proposed to strengthen national machinery for the advancement of women, which included the involvement of women's non-governmental organizations,

*Mindful* of its resolution 1990/15 of 24 May 1990, the annex to which contains the recommendations and conclusions arising from the first review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies and, specifically, recommendations XXIII and XXIV, which deal with national machinery,

*Recalling* its resolution 1990/14 of 24 May 1990, in which it urged Governments to make renewed commitments to implement the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies by strengthening their national machinery and increasing the resources devoted to programmes for the advancement of women,

*Recognizing* that national machinery is an essential element in the promotion and implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies and the Convention on

the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,<sup>29</sup>

1. *Urges* countries that have not yet done so to establish, as soon as possible, and at the latest by 1995, national machinery for the advancement of women that can have a direct effect on government policy;

2. *Urges* Governments to provide adequate and secure political, financial, technical and human resources to enable national machinery to function effectively and have access to the highest levels of government;

3. *Stresses* that the provision of technical assistance to countries establishing or strengthening national machinery should be considered a priority activity by the United Nations system and donor countries;

4. *Invites* the national machinery of different countries to exchange information, bilaterally or multilaterally, on issues of common interest, including information on innovative policies, programmes and research;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the regional commissions and within existing resources, to promote such an exchange of information through United Nations documents, by supporting regional and subregional meetings of national machinery, by using resources from the regular budgets of the five regional commissions, by making provisions for it in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 and by annually updating and distributing the *Directory of National Machinery for the Advancement of Women*;

6. *Reiterates* its recommendation that the Secretary-General should make available the services of an inter-regional adviser, through the regular programme of technical cooperation, to assist, on request, national machinery in carrying out effectively the review and appraisal of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in preparing the reports called for in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and in preparing for the world conference on women to be held in 1995;

7. *Encourages* the provision of such other technical assistance as may be required by national machinery, and the sharing of support and expertise between units of such machinery, particularly those in developing countries, to facilitate the preparation of national reports for the world conference on women;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-sixth session on the activities of the appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Development Fund for Women, that provide assistance to national machinery to ensure that the work being done by those bodies is complementary and does not overlap;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to invite Governments to review and update the case-studies prepared for the Seminar on National Machinery for Monitoring and Improving the Status of Women, held at Vienna from 28 September to 2 October 1987, and other appropriate case-studies, to publish those case-studies as a reference manual for national machinery and to make provisions for this in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993;

<sup>48</sup> E/CN.6/1991/CRP.1.

<sup>49</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/46/38)*, sect. I.

10. *Requests* that appropriate steps be taken, within existing resources, to strengthen the capacity of the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to work with national machinery and the specialized agencies to achieve the goals of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies;

11. *Urges* Governments to make every effort to make information on their national machinery available and to ensure that titles accurately reflect the role of the offices concerned;

12. *Requests* Governments to ensure appropriate training for the staff of the national machinery and also to encourage, in management training courses, the inclusion of gender-analysis training and information on the role of national machinery;

13. *Decides* that an evaluation of the effectiveness of efforts to establish and improve national machinery since the adoption of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies in 1985 and an analysis of the further action that is required should be included in a report for submission to the world conference on women in 1995.

*12th plenary meeting  
30 May 1991*

#### **1991/23. Refugee and displaced women and children**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* that the majority of refugees and displaced persons are women and children and that a significant number of families are headed by women,

*Expressing its deep concern* about the widespread violations of the rights of refugee and displaced women and children and their specific needs regarding protection and assistance,

*Stressing* the potential of refugee and displaced women and the importance of ensuring their full participation when their needs are analysed and programmes are designed and implemented,

*Stressing* that all action taken on behalf of refugee and displaced women and children must be guided by the relevant international instruments relating to the status of refugees, as well as other human rights instruments, in particular, the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, of 28 July 1951,<sup>50</sup> the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, of 31 January 1967,<sup>51</sup> the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,<sup>29</sup> and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>52</sup>

*Recalling* resolution 34/2 of 8 March 1990 of the Commission on the Status of Women,<sup>46</sup>

*Recognizing* that ensuring equal treatment of refugee and displaced women and men may require specific action in favour of the former.

*Emphasizing* the close link between protection and assistance programmes,

*Recalling* the special relevance of the Nairobi Forward-

ward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women<sup>34</sup> and the obligations of the United Nations system to give effect to its provisions,

*Noting* the substantial number of refugees and displaced persons and their impact on the development prospects of the already fragile infrastructure of some receiving countries,

*Noting also* the important role of the main international bodies and organizations concerned, namely, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the United Nations Border Relief Operation, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Food Programme, the World Health Organization and the International Committee of the Red Cross,

*Recognizing* the important role played by non-governmental organizations,

*Recalling* its resolution 1990/78 of 27 July 1990, in which it requested the Secretary-General to initiate a system-wide review to assess the experience and capacity of various organizations in the coordination of assistance to all refugees, displaced persons and returnees,

*Commending* the policy on refugee women recently adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees<sup>53</sup> and subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/140 A of 14 December 1990,

*Commending also* the Guidelines on Refugee Children issued by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General<sup>54</sup> and the report of the Expert Group Meeting on Refugee and Displaced Women and Children, held at Vienna from 2 to 6 July 1990,<sup>55</sup>

1. *Calls upon* Member States, in cooperation with United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations, urgently to address the root causes of refugee movements and displacement;

2. *Calls upon* the international community to give priority to extending international protection to refugee women and children by implementing measures to ensure greater protection from physical violence, sexual abuse, abduction and circumstances that could force them into illegal activities;

3. *Urges* Member States, United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations to ensure that the specific needs and resources of refugee and displaced women and children are fully considered in the planning of their activities and programmes;

4. *Also urges* Member States, United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations to ensure that refugee and displaced women are provided with sufficient information to enable them to make decisions on their own future;

5. *Encourages* Member States and relevant organizations to provide access to individual identification

<sup>50</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

<sup>51</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 606, No. 8791.

<sup>52</sup> General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.

<sup>53</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 12A (A/45/12/Add.1)*, para. 24.

<sup>54</sup> E/CN.6/1991/4.

<sup>55</sup> EGM/RDWC/1990/1.