

United Nations  
**GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY**

FORTIETH SESSION

Official Records\*



COPY:  
DO NOT REMOVE  
FROM ROOM  
SL-201 (WVRR)

THIRD COMMITTEE  
31st meeting  
held on  
Tuesday, 5 November 1985  
at 10.30 a.m.  
New York

1985 2 1985

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 31st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ZADOR (Hungary)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 88: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SECOND DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
(continued)

AGENDA ITEM 93: IMPORTANCE OF THE UNIVERSAL REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND OF THE SPEEDY GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES FOR THE EFFECTIVE GUARANTEE AND OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 94: ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 92: UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE (continued)

- (a) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SECOND HALF OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)
- (b) WORLD CONFERENCE TO REVIEW AND APPRAISE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE (continued)
- (c) VOLUNTARY FUND FOR THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)
- (d) PREVENTION OF PROSTITUTION (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 99: INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

/...

\*This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned within one week of the date of publication to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate fascicle for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL  
A/C.3/40/SR.31  
8 November 1985

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

/...

CONTENTS (continued)

100: ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

- (a) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (continued)
- (b) STATUS OF THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 88: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SECOND DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/C.3/40/L.7, L.10)

AGENDA ITEM 93: IMPORTANCE OF THE UNIVERSAL REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND OF THE SPEEDY GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES FOR THE EFFECTIVE GUARANTEE AND OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/C.3/40/L.5, L.9)

AGENDA ITEM 94: ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued) (A/C.3/40/L.4, L.6, L.8)

1. Mr. ABDULLAH ZAWAWI (Malaysia), speaking in explanation of vote after the vote on the draft resolutions submitted under items 88, 93 and 94, said that he wished to make a correction concerning his delegation's vote on paragraph 26 of draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.9. Malaysia had abstained, in keeping with its vote on General Assembly resolution 39/40.

2. Ms. BOGARDE (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the Nordic delegations with regard to the vote on draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.6, said that the Governments of the Nordic countries had actively supported the efforts of the international community, both within and outside the United Nations system to eliminate apartheid. However, not being States parties to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, they had abstained in the separate votes on the third preambular paragraph and on paragraphs 5 and 8, and in the vote on the draft resolution as a whole. That voting did not, in itself, reflect any positions taken in regard to the substance on the paragraphs mentioned or of the draft resolution as adopted. The Nordic delegations wished to have the explanation put on record in view of the unclear but potentially far-reaching international legal implications of the resolution.

3. Mr. KHAN (India) said that his delegation had not opposed the adoption by consensus of draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.5, without prejudice, however, to its position on the International Covenants on Human Rights and the relevant resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights.

4. Mr. YEDID (Israel) said that Israel had not opposed the consensus on draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.7; however, if the draft resolution had been put to a vote, his delegation would have voted against it because of the abuses which the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination had generated, most notably the infamous General Assembly resolution 3379 (XXX) equating zionism with racism.

5. Ms. YOUNG (United Kingdom), speaking in explanation of vote on draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.7, said that her Government's deep commitment to the elimination of racial discrimination and its condemnation of apartheid were well known, and her delegation therefore welcomed the fact that it had again been

(Ms. Young, United Kingdom)

possible to adopt a draft resolution on the subject without a vote. However, her delegation had reservations with regard to paragraph 1. It was the duty of the United Nations to work for peaceful solutions to disputes in all circumstances. In her delegation's view, therefore, the phrase "by all available means" was to be interpreted in accordance with the Charter, and could not include armed struggle. With regard to the activities envisaged in the text, her delegation felt that they could be implemented within existing resources through redeployment, and it hoped that the Secretariat would be able to confirm to the Fifth Committee that such was their intention.

6. Ms. DIEGUEZ (Mexico) said that her delegation had voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.9, although it had reservations concerning paragraph 5 because that paragraph referred to a Palestinian programme of action on which her country had reservations based on its foreign-policy views, and paragraph 21 because it mentioned a Declaration in whose drafting Mexico had not participated.

7. Mr. TUN (Burma) said that he wished to clarify his delegation's position concerning draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.9. Burma had consistently supported the right of peoples to self-determination and had steadfastly opposed colonialism. Thus, it was in full agreement with the basic principles embodied in the draft resolution, as indicated by its affirmative vote. However, his delegation wished to express reservations with regard to the wording of certain paragraphs of the draft resolution which did not, in its view, serve to enhance its effectiveness.

8. Mr. YAKOVLEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the adoption of draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.7 reflected the majority view in favour of intensifying the struggle against apartheid and racial discrimination. However, the delegations which had raised contentious points in their explanations of vote should show the restraint and wisdom appropriate to the procedural stage of the Committee's work. With regard to the related financial implications (A/C.3/40/L.10), his delegation felt that, in order to cover the conference-servicing costs mentioned in paragraph 8, the Centre for Human Rights at Geneva should strive to carry out its work without hiring any new staff or consultants through better co-ordination of the existing facilities.

9. Mrs. ITOH (Japan), referring to draft resolutions A/C.3/40/L.6 and L.7, said that her Government had always strongly opposed racial discrimination, particularly apartheid. However, her delegation had abstained on draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.6 because certain provisions of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid contained legally ambiguous concepts and definitions.

10. Although her delegation had been pleased to join in the adoption without a vote of draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.7, it reserved its position with regard to the report of the Seminar mentioned in paragraph 8, inasmuch as the report was apparently not yet available to delegations. Her delegation also wished to point out that United Nations activities in implementing the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination should be carried out

(Mrs. Itoh, Japan)

bearing in mind the financial constraints under which many Member States were labouring and that it was critical to concentrate on the most effective and economical activities.

11. Mr. QUINN (Australia) recalled that his delegation's statement to the Committee under items 88, 93 and 94 has alluded to Australia's recent initiatives aimed at encouraging the dismantling of apartheid. However, Australia had opposed draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.9 because of long-standing objections in principle to a number of elements in the text. His delegation had voted in favour of paragraph 26, in view of its support of General Assembly resolution 39/40. However, he expressed regret that yet another divisive issue had been introduced into the draft resolution on self-determination. His delegation also had reservations about reaffirming resolutions of the Organization of African Unity, since Australia and many other Member States were not members of that organization.

12. With regard to draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.6, his delegation had abstained on all three separate votes and on the resolution as a whole, as a matter of legal principle. The provisions of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid raised difficult legal problems for Australia which continued to prevent it from becoming a party despite its resolute opposition to apartheid. Moreover, his delegation could not support some of the wording of the three separate paragraphs. In particular, with regard to paragraph 5, Australia had difficulties with article II of the Convention and rejected any implication that it applied to transnational corporations.

13. With regard to paragraph 8, as Australia was not a party to the Convention, it would not wish to be involved in any request to the Secretary-General in the terms set out in that paragraph. Moreover, the paragraph presupposed the applicability of the Convention to transnational corporations, a proposition which Australia would not wish to endorse implicitly or otherwise. He noted that the code of conduct drawn up by his Government for the few Australian companies with interests in South Africa was predicated on the policy that corporate activity would be permitted to continue, but that it was unacceptable for any Australian company to pursue commercial activities in South Africa which sought to exploit the peculiar employment conditions which existed in that country as a consequence of apartheid. In addition, he pointed out that Australia scrupulously adhered to the Security Council resolutions on the subject.

14. His delegation welcomed the consensus on the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, which Australia and many others, in particular Assistant Secretary-General James Jonah, had worked so hard to achieve.

15. Mr. TICHY (Austria) said that Austria had abstained on draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.6 as a whole, as well as on the separate votes on three of its paragraphs, since it was not a party to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid. While consistently condemning apartheid, Austria felt that the contents of that Convention were incompatible with its constitutional law. Austria had also abstained on draft

(Mr. Tichy, Austria)

resolution A/C.3/40/L.9. Although his delegation went along with many elements of the text, it could not support all of it, in particular the reference to "armed struggle" in paragraph 2.

16. Miss AYORINDE (Nigeria) said that the representative of Morocco, in an explanation of vote before the vote, had insinuated that a position in favour of draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.9 somehow implied an infringement of the sovereignty of Morocco. Her delegation had not questioned Morocco's right of sovereignty. It was confident that Morocco and the rest of Africa would soon find a solution to any temporary problem which might have occasioned Morocco's position on paragraph 26 of that resolution.

17. Mr. ALMERREE (United Arab Emirates) said that his delegation had voted in favour of all the draft resolutions under items 88, 93 and 94, thus reaffirming its position against racism, apartheid and zionism. His delegation's vote on draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.9 had been based on its support of General Assembly resolution 3379 (XXX), because it felt that the link between racism and zionism must be stressed. That link was manifested in practice in the collaboration between Tel Aviv and Pretoria, as affirmed in paragraphs 21 and 22 of the draft resolution. He also expressed his satisfaction with paragraphs 23 and 24, and said that the United Arab Emirates was doing its best to enforce the oil embargo. Its policies towards South Africa should be judged by the struggling people of that country, not by Israel, which was contributing to the massacre of the South African people by its collaboration with the Pretoria régime.

18. Mr. BEMBOY (Zaire) said that his delegation, although it strongly condemned all forms of racial discrimination and had therefore voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.9, had voted against paragraph 26 because it was firmly convinced that the problem of Western Sahara could be solved only through a referendum.

19. Mr. AL-DOSERI (Qatar) said that, because of an error in the recording of the vote, Qatar had been registered as having voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.8. However, Qatar had not participated in the voting.

20. Mr. SEROT (France) said that his delegation was pleased that the Committee had adopted draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.7 without a vote. However, he expressed regret that the seventh preambular paragraph had mentioned the Declaration adopted by the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. France's position against that text had not changed. His delegation also felt that, at the end of paragraph 1, the phrase "must be combated by all available means" should be understood as including only legitimate means under international law, in particular under the Charter. His delegation also had reservations concerning the reference, at the end of paragraph 2, to "occupied territories and territories under alien domination"; that wording was, in its view, ambiguous and inappropriate. Furthermore, although particular attention should be given to the victims of apartheid - the only contemporary case of institutionalized racism - discrimination was a universal evil and all victims of it should be aided. Lastly, his delegation felt that the use of funds allocated to advisory services to organize a seminar in Africa was inappropriate.

21. Ms. BRENNEN (Bahamas) said that, had it been present, her delegation would have voted in favour of paragraph 26 of draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.9.

22. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had concluded the consideration of items 88 and 93. The first cluster of items would be completed when the Committee took action on draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.14, under item 94.

AGENDA ITEM 92: UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE (continued) (A/40/3, 188, 239 and Add.1, 365, 703 and Corr.1, 727, 838; A/CONF.116/28 and Corr.1-3)

- (a) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SECOND HALF OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)
- (b) WORLD CONFERENCE TO REVIEW AND APPRAISE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE (continued)
- (c) VOLUNTARY FUND FOR THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)
- (d) PREVENTION OF PROSTITUTION (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 99: INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/40/3, 707)

AGENDA ITEM 100: ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (continued) (A/40/3, 45, 623)

- (a) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (continued)
- (b) STATUS OF THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

23. Mrs. VIOTTI (Brazil) said that the outcome of the Nairobi World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, the report of which was contained in document A/CONF.116/28 and Corr.1-3, testified to the widespread concern for women's issues and to the increasing recognition that action to solve them could no longer be postponed. Despite the progress already achieved, an enormous task lay ahead. Women's issues could not be dissociated from the main problems that prevented the international community as a whole from enjoying the goals of equality, development and peace; and the status of women was determined by deep-seated socio-cultural norms which were not easily changed. The inextricably linked themes of the Decade - equality, development and peace - stressed the fact that equality between men and women could not become a reality without the achievement of economic and social development, nor could there be real development in the absence of peaceful relations among countries.

24. It was encouraging to note that nations had co-operated to create an instrument, the Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (A/CONF.116/28, chap. IA), which represented a valuable guideline for action. The

(Mrs. Viotti, Brazil)

implementation of those Strategies was a major concern. It was important to ensure their wide dissemination, so that they could be included in the policies and plans of Governments, non-governmental organizations and international bodies. Her delegation shared the view that the existing relevant United Nations bodies were best qualified to undertake the necessary follow-up and monitoring.

25. The role played by the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women had been outstanding, and she welcomed the continuation of its activities beyond the Decade in autonomous association with UNDP (A/40/727, para. 1). The International Training and Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) had also played a relevant role in promoting better understanding of the socio-economic situation of women and in helping enhance their productive capacities.

26. In Brazil, where women constituted 36 per cent of the active labour force, steady progress had been made towards promoting a greater awareness of the status of women and promoting measures to improve it. A significant step in that direction had been the recent creation of the National Council for the Rights of women. In his statement before the plenary Assembly, the President of Brazil had stressed the importance which the Government attached to that initiative. Moreover, the inauguration in Brazil of a new Government committed to the re-establishment of democracy and the participation of all segments of society in the political and economic life of the country created favourable conditions for overcoming traditional attitudes towards women.

27. Mr. KITTIKHOUN (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that peoples throughout the world must spare no effort to promote world peace and international co-operation. While some imperialist circles were doing their utmost to divert world public opinion from the most acute problem confronting mankind - the threat of a nuclear war - it was imperative to make the world fully aware of what the aftermath of such a war would be like. Women should therefore not only participate equally with men in every sphere of society but should also intensify their activities directed towards strengthening world peace, implementing a new international economic order, halting the arms race and averting a "nuclear winter".

28. The Nairobi Conference had been unprecedented in terms of the number of participating States and the number of women who had headed their delegations, among them the delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Some forces, in pursuit of their selfish interests, had exerted all their energies to divert attention to minor issues, but had failed in their endeavours.

29. Although it had often been argued that such issues as the repugnant system of apartheid and the oppression of the Palestinian people had nothing to do with women's issues, it was clear that the proponents of such theories had shown no willingness to lend any support to black women in South Africa and Namibia and to Palestinian women in their struggle for the exercise of their fundamental rights to self-determination and independence. It was his delegation's strong belief that peoples had a moral obligation to heed the sufferings of those unfortunate women and to take measures to eradicate apartheid and to put an end to the foreign occupation of Palestinian land.



(Mr. Kittikhoun, Lao People's  
Democratic Republic)

30. The Strategies adopted by the Nairobi Conference had identified many obstacles to the advancement of women, inter alia, mass poverty and underdevelopment due to imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, apartheid and unjust international economic relations. Those obstacles should be taken into account by Governments in their efforts to implement the Strategies. It was his delegation's hope that conditions would be created so as to facilitate the realization of the objectives of equality, development and peace.

31. Lastly, he agreed that the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women should, as a matter of priority, support activities directly benefiting rural women and poor women in urban areas. In his country, where women were actively involved in national defence and reconstruction, the Fund's support was most welcome.

32. Mrs. PAPAJORGJI (Albania) said that the problems of women were closely linked to the destiny of peoples struggling for freedom, independence and democracy; they were also reflected in the statements made at the Nairobi Conference by the representatives of many peace-loving countries, despite the efforts, primarily of the super-Powers, to rid the issue of its political content. It was therefore necessary to show the true causes of the serious world situation and the suffering of peoples and women. That cause was the imperialist and hegemonistic policy of the two super-Powers, which not only mobilized human and material resources to wage war but also instigated peoples to fight among themselves, thus generating tension, wars and aggression, poverty and insecurity.

33. It was an insult to hear such words as "peace", "détente" and "disarmament" when thousands of women and children were being massacred by aggressors in the occupied Arab territories, in Lebanon and in Afghanistan. In South Africa, the racist régime shamefully discriminated against the people of that country, the women being most severely affected. On the positive side, however, there was an increase in the resistance of people, including women, in order to attain national rights, independence, democracy and social progress.

34. As a result of the deep economic crisis in the entire capitalist and revisionist world, unemployment was one of the serious problems of society, the first victims being women. Women also suffered discrimination in such areas as education and political life. The apologists for the bourgeoisie spoke much about the emancipation of women. But women's emancipation and their role in development could not be understood if their relationship in the family and in society was not also understood.

35. The emancipation of Albanian women had been achieved with the triumph of the People's Revolution, when they had emerged from servitude and poverty. The dignified position which they occupied today in Albanian society was one of the greatest victories of the Revolution. Today, Albanian women made up almost half of all workers and of all professionals. They also played a key role in the proper upbringing of their children, who grew up in the spirit of love for people and country and dedicated to the cause of socialism and proletarian internationalism.

36. Mrs. PALTI (Israel) said that the Nairobi Strategies (A/CONF.116/28, chap.1A) embodied the commitment of the international community to improve the lot of women around the world. That document was arguably the most important one now before the General Assembly. However, while gratifying progress had been made in the emancipation of women, there was still a long way to go. For instance, of the 159 Member States, only four delegations to the General Assembly at its fortieth anniversary celebration had been led by women.

37. As the founder of the Zionist organization had stated, a nation striving to be recognized as equal among the nations could ill afford not to recognize women as equal. Women had thus been active and prominent in all fields of Zionist endeavour from pioneering days. Outstanding women had had an impact on Israeli society as a whole and their work had changed both the reality and perception of women's achievements.

38. While women's status was enhanced by legislative and administrative action, Israel was concerned about the continuing discrepancy between the legal equality and the traditional social norms that persisted in some population groups. Changing those male-oriented norms was a continuing task to be carried out with a great deal of tact and respect for the diverse cultural and ethnic heritage that each group cherished. While Israeli women participated in decision-making at all levels, they remained underrepresented, especially in the upper echelons.

39. Several delegations had expressed concern about the situation of Palestinian Arab women in Judea-Samaria and Gaza. A detailed description of the remarkable improvement in the fields of health, education and employment during the 18 years of Israel's administration had been presented to the Special Political Committee. It showed the considerable advance in the status of women in that traditionally patriarchal society, as well as a changing attitude of men towards them.

40. Israeli women were deeply involved in the quest for peace. For too long they had suffered hatred and terrorism, bigotry and violence. Even while engaged in the political work of achieving peace with its neighbours, Israel had many organizations acting to further co-operation between Jews and Arabs, to break down negative stereotypes and foster understanding and respect between Jews and Moslems, Druze and Christians.

41. Her delegation agreed that the Nairobi Conference had been a major international event and urged adoption of the Strategies by the General Assembly as an effective means for further national and international progress for women.

42. Ms. REAGAN (United States of America) said that the Nairobi Conference had been a milestone in the advancement of women. The Strategies contained in the report of the Conference (A/CONF.116/28 and Corr.1-3) represented the dreams, goals and ambitions of those who had laboured at Nairobi, and the momentum gained there should not be lost. The United States would make every effort to find practical solutions to the monumental problems faced by women every day.

43. The avenues leading to the attainment of even some of the simple goals contained in the Strategies were sometimes tortuous. The fact that a goal would require great effort to achieve only reflected the problems women faced when

(Ms. Reagan, United States)

striving for equality. Unlike in some countries, women and men in the United States enjoyed an open and democratic society which protected basic human rights and which responded to the legitimate concerns and grievances of citizens. Her delegation believed that, without that freedom, all talk of the advancement of women was only that: talk.

44. Throughout the United States, there were thousands of non-governmental organizations whose generosity and caring for people were well known around the world. Political and legislative change also began with grass-roots organizations. It was as a result of the numerous women's groups in the United States that issues affecting women had found expression in local and state laws and had gained the attention of the Federal Government. In addition, private institutions and companies had launched programmes aimed at increasing the participation of women in the professions and business and eliminating gender-based stereotyping. She had mentioned the private sector because the implementation of the Strategies in the United States needed the interest and effort of people at the grass roots.

45. Her delegation therefore felt that the first thing the United States should do to implement the Strategies would be to distribute the final document of the Conference with its national report. That information, in the hands of elected officials at every level of government and among thousands of community organizations would help to correct the remaining inequalities and enlarge women's opportunities in the United States.

46. Apart from what individual countries could and should do for themselves to implement the Strategies, it was time for action by the United Nations. That meant it should actively promote the principles and objectives which formed the basis of that document. It should avoid being sidetracked by irrelevant and politically motivated arguments. As the world's largest international bureaucracy, the United Nations should improve the situation of women within its own system by placing more of them in policy-making positions and ensuring that they had the same benefits and opportunities that their male counterparts enjoyed. The United States would work towards that end.

47. The specialized agencies should pay particular attention to those sections of the final document which affected them. For example, the issue of women in development should receive careful attention from UNDP to ensure that projects were geared towards helping women develop and take advantage of their economic role. In the field of refugees, her delegation saw a need for projects which took into account the practical concerns of women refugees and their children. Greater direction in those areas would contribute significantly towards meeting the objectives of the Strategies. The United States Congress had ensured that its own bilateral development efforts included programmes specifically designed for women.

48. Her delegation was particularly excited by the French proposal that the Commission on the Status of Women should be renamed the "Commission for the Advancement of Women". There was a clear need for the Commission to become more

(Ms. Reagan, United States)

energetic in promoting the interests of women within the United Nations. The Commission must provide guidance on women's concerns to United Nations agencies, the General Assembly and member countries. It could and should be an instrument with which to implement the Strategies and the many other good ideas that had emerged at Nairobi.

49. While no action had been taken on a number of draft resolutions at Nairobi, the subjects they covered were very important to the future of women. The Nairobi message to tell the world community was that women were no longer a separate agenda item, but must be part of all agendas now and in the future. There was no issue which did not have some unique effect on women, and women insisted on integration into Governments and international organizations where they could work for solutions, not simply live with the problems.

50. Mr. ABDULLAH ZAWAWI (Malaysia) said that the adoption of the report of the Nairobi Conference by consensus indicated the strong sense of purpose and keen hopes of most delegations for success. However, there was no foolproof formula for the implementation of the Strategies. The ideals contained therein were illusive objectives. Undeniably, Governments and non-governmental bodies had an equally important role to play. However, the international community must be guided by a sense of pragmatism and honesty and must steer clear of narrow political interests.

51. Malaysia fully supported the goals of the Strategies and would strive for their implementation at the national, regional and international levels. At the national level, it could be said that Malaysian women had made reasonable progress, comparable in some respects to women in developed countries. They had an important role to play in national development as healthy citizens, enlightened wives and mothers.

52. INSTRAW and the United Nations Development Fund for Women were key instruments in the promotion of women's activities. While it was reassuring that the Fund would continue to be made available beyond the Decade, it should not replace but supplement existing channels of funding for women's programmes.

53. Malaysia viewed with great concern the tragedy that had befallen millions of refugees and displaced persons, among them women and children uprooted from their homelands. Malaysia had rendered humanitarian assistance to hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese who had reached its shores since 1979, thereby imposing on it an excessively heavy burden. In that regard, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had done a tremendous job in providing all-round assistance.

54. In conclusion he recalled the words of the leader of the Malaysian delegation to the Nairobi Conference: she had stated that the world must be made to remember that "women were human beings first, and women second".

55. Mrs. FEXIS (Greece) said that the Strategies adopted by the Nairobi Conference (A/CONF.116/28, chap. IA) reflected the political will evinced at the Conference and were based on the review and appraisal of the progress made and the obstacles encountered during the United Nations Decade for Women. The momentum created by the Decade must be maintained, on the basis of the Strategies, with a view to eradicating all discrimination based on sex, at all levels - national, regional and international. Action at the national level was of primary importance; measures must be taken at the highest government level. The United Nations, particularly the regional commissions, had an important co-ordinating and monitoring role; and non-governmental organizations could provide valuable help relating to information, research and education.
56. Three main points had emerged from the Nairobi Conference. Firstly, the Commission on the Status of Women should be the focal point for implementing the Strategies; the General Assembly should request it to formulate specific guidelines for the implementation mechanisms, and its sessions should be annual instead of biennial.
57. Secondly, efforts to implement the Strategies should be reviewed at five-year intervals at the international, regional and subregional levels, on the basis of national-level monitoring and in accordance with recommendations to be made by the Commission; and a United Nations conference should be convened every five years during the period 1986-2000.
58. Thirdly, the Branch for the Advancement of Women should be accorded the status of a centre with sufficient autonomy to continue discharging its responsibilities, including those related to the Strategies.
59. The draft resolutions not adopted at the Nairobi Conference owing to lack of time should be considered by the Commission on the Status of Women, the proper forum for that task. The United Nations might also consider the possibility, as proposed by the Greek delegation to the Conference, of subsidizing meetings of women from the opposing sides in a conflict, together with women from other countries, without government or diplomatic advisers, to recommend ways to end the conflict.
60. Turning to item 100, she welcomed the increasing number of States that had ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. On the other hand, some signatories had still not ratified it. Moreover, some of the reservations made by States parties were incompatible with the purpose of the Convention.
61. Her delegation welcomed the progress made by INSTRAW, as reflected in its report (A/40/707), and its network of co-operative arrangements for programmes concerning women and development, which was in line with the Strategies. For example, the Mediterranean Centre for Women, established in Greece, co-operated closely with INSTRAW. The establishment of further regional and national institutes would strengthen INSTRAW's network.

62. Mrs. NHLABATSI (Swaziland) said that the Nairobi Conference, and the associated Forum '85, had shown that women were determined to be excluded no longer from decisions affecting mankind, and that they were at least as capable as men of handling political issues. The Strategies adopted by the Conference reaffirmed the interrelated objectives - equality, development and peace - of the United Nations Decade for Women, and the renewed commitment of women everywhere to improving their lives, conditions and status.

63. The Copenhagen World Conference had interpreted women's equality as being equality not only in law but also in regard to rights and responsibilities and as both agents and beneficiaries in all spheres of development. Women's rights could best be advanced in a climate of peace, security and respect for the right of all nations to self-determination, independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

64. But women's programmes for development had not always featured in national development plans. For instance, the national machinery established in her country had lacked resources and authority, and the lack of statistics made it hard to assess women's activities; she hoped that INSTRAW would assist the recently established national office to co-ordinate women's activities. Her delegation also appealed to the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and the world community to help Swaziland to integrate women's issues into its planning. The Commission on the Status of Women should be mandated to monitor the implementation of the Strategies, and the United Nations system should strive to increase the number of women employed at all levels. Efforts to integrate women into development should be intensified, account being taken of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.

65. The world economic crisis had retarded women's participation in national development. A North-South dialogue was urgently needed in order to ease the problem and reduce the widening gap between the developing and developed countries.

66. Discrimination against women must be eliminated as a prerequisite to human resource development. For that purpose, Governments should urgently implement paragraph 120 of the Strategies, concerning the unremunerated contribution of women to development. More financial support should also be provided to INSTRAW and the United Nations Development Fund for Women. The latter had greatly assisted women in many poor areas around the world. Swaziland had been awarded the first prize for a project relating to women in development; it was hoped that other countries in the subregion would take advantage of the training opportunities which the project offered. The Netherlands had pledged an increase in financial assistance to the project. Given the requisite funds, more could be done in that way to assist the country's development.

67. Her delegation appealed to all Governments and non-governmental organizations to demonstrate political will by establishing a comprehensive legal base for the equality of women and men, pursuant to the Nairobi Strategies.

68. Mr. BRAUN (Federal Republic of Germany) said that he wished to offer a few additional remarks to what the representative of Luxembourg had stated on behalf of the members of the European Community concerning the Nairobi Conference. The

(Mr. Braun, Federal Republic  
of Germany)

Conference had reached a successful conclusion despite difficulties caused by the introduction of too many political and economic topics properly within the competence of other United Nations forums. The adoption of the Nairobi Strategies had greatly advanced the interests of women everywhere. They provided outstanding guidelines for work at all levels. The Conference had encouraged Governments and international organizations to evaluate the status of women and define future work priorities.

69. His Government had already taken initial action to give effect to the Strategies; they would be made available to government agencies, churches, both sides of industry, women's organizations and other interested groups and individuals. The Government had identified areas for action, including education and training, the family, women's participation in decision-taking and development, and help for single mothers, victims of violence, elderly women and others at a disadvantage.

70. However, time was needed to study the results of the Conference and decide what action to take. Some of the ideas contained in the Strategies were quite ambitious and might take a good many years to achieve. When the Commission on the Status of Women next met, in 1986, Governments would have had time to note women's first reactions to the Strategies, and the Commission would be in a position to discuss an institutional follow-up in more detail. The most effective follow-up would be at the regional level; his delegation therefore supported the idea of periodic regional women's conferences.

71. His Government endorsed the aims and ideas expressed in the Strategies, and would strive to achieve the goals of the Decade. Those goals would be attained if all nations worked in a spirit of consensus.

72. Mr. VILLAGRA DELGADO (Argentina) said that the inauguration of the United Nations Decade for Women had been one of the Organization's most important social and humanitarian undertakings, which had given hope to women everywhere. But despite the great strides which it had made possible, many obstacles, stemming from deep-rooted cultural attitudes, still had to be overcome.

73. The number and level of the participants at the Nairobi Conference had testified to the importance attached by Governments and peoples to the Decade; and the adoption of the Nairobi Strategies had shown that individual interests had to be subordinated in order not to dissipate international efforts. The Strategies provided a basic instrument for future work, having identified the tasks and obstacles to be faced. The consensus achieved at Nairobi must be maintained through concerted action, in accordance with the spirit of the United Nations; the need for international co-operation was nowhere clearer than in the aims of the Strategies.

74. If women were to achieve equality, they must participate fully in society, particularly at higher administrative levels; educational systems must be geared accordingly. Equality before the law was likewise essential, and the Argentine

(Mr. Villagra Delgado, Argentina)

Congress had adopted legislation to that end. But such measures were not enough. In many developing countries, steps to improve the status of women in society were being seriously hampered by the world economic crisis and the various attendant problems. It was hoped that the Strategies, by helping to promote development, would contribute to the advancement of women. An essential factor, of course, was a climate of peace, on which the other two goals of equality and development depended.

75. National and regional mechanisms would be needed to give effect to the Strategies. Latin America had many well-organized bodies for that purpose, which had already contributed considerably to the Decade and, it was hoped, would be suitably strengthened.

76. Argentina supported the activities of INSTRAW. Research and training were important to women's integration into society, providing help in policy-making and enabling women to qualify on an equal footing with men at senior levels. The Institute's achievements at a time of stringency testified to the efficiency of its network, as described in document A/40/707. His delegation appealed to all States and interested organizations to contribute to the Institute's Trust Fund, to which his country had pledged \$10,000.

77. Argentina had ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the implementation of whose provisions would help to achieve the desired goals.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.