

Council and other bodies that have been adopted since Assembly resolution 2715 (XXV) of 15 December 1970,

*Recalling further* the report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat,<sup>35</sup>

*Noting* that the Steering Committee for the Improvement of the Status of Women in the Secretariat has submitted its report to the Secretary-General,

*Noting with satisfaction* that the question of the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat continues to be an item on the agenda of the Administrative Committee on Coordination,

*Taking note* of the relevant chapter of the report of the International Civil Service Commission,<sup>36</sup>

*Noting with concern* that the goal of an overall participation rate for women of 30 per cent by 1990 in posts subject to geographical distribution was not achieved and that their representation in senior policy-level and decision-making posts did not improve,

*Noting* the new goal of achieving by 1995 an overall participation rate of 35 per cent of all posts subject to geographical distribution, and of increasing the number of women in senior policy-level and decision-making posts,

1. *Urges* the Secretary-General to accord greater priority to increasing the number of women in posts subject to geographical distribution, particularly in senior policy-level and decision-making posts, in order to achieve an overall participation rate of 35 per cent by 1995, taking into consideration the need to increase the representation of women from the developing countries and those countries with a low representation of women;

2. *Also urges* the Secretary-General to accord priority to increasing to 25 per cent, by 1995, the participation rate for women in posts at the D-1 level and above, within the overall participation rate for women of 35 per cent in posts subject to geographical distribution, taking into consideration the need to increase the representation of women from the developing countries and those countries with a low representation of women;

3. *Welcomes* the request of the General Assembly, in resolutions 45/125 of 14 December 1990 and 45/239 C of 21 December 1990, that the Secretary-General develop an action programme for the advancement of women in the Secretariat for the period 1991-1995, incorporating, as necessary, the unfulfilled points of the 1985-1990 action programme and taking into account the recommendations of the Steering Committee for the Improvement of the Status of Women in the Secretariat, as appropriate, and the special measures to implement them;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in the action programme for the advancement of women in the Secretariat for the period 1991-1995: (a) a comprehensive evaluation and analysis of the main obstacles to the improvement of the status of women in the Organization; (b) proposed measures to overcome the

underrepresentation of women from certain Member States; and (c) a detailed programme of activities, including monitoring procedures and a timetable for their completion;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to ensure that adequate machinery, with the authority of enforcement and the responsibility of accountability, and including a senior-level official devoted to implementation of the action programme, is maintained and, to the extent possible, strengthened during the course of the action programme for the period 1991-1995;

6. *Requests* Member States to continue to support the efforts of the United Nations, including the regional commissions, and of the specialized agencies and related organizations to increase the participation of women in the Professional category and above by, *inter alia*, nominating more women candidates, especially for senior policy-level and decision-making posts, by encouraging women to apply for vacant posts and by creating national rosters of women candidates to be shared with the Secretariat and the executive bodies of the specialized agencies and related organizations;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that his annual report on progress achieved, updated as appropriate, includes strategies and modalities for implementing the action programme and the relevant mandates adopted by the General Assembly and the Council, and to submit the report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-sixth session and to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, as well as to those bodies that have administrative, budgetary and personnel responsibilities for the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat.

*12th plenary meeting  
30 May 1991*

## **1991/18. Violence against women in all its forms**

### *The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in paragraph 258 of which it was stated that violence against women was a major obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace,<sup>34</sup>

*Bearing in mind* the recommendations and conclusions arising from the first review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies, contained in the annex to its resolution 1990/15 of 24 May 1990, in particular the conclusion that violence against women in the family and society was pervasive and crossed lines of income, class and culture, and specifically recommendation XXII, which called for immediate action on the part of Governments, relevant agencies, women's organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to address the issue of violence against women,

*Recalling* its resolution 1988/27 of 26 May 1988, in which it called for the continuation of the consolidation of efforts to eradicate violence against women within the family and society,

<sup>35</sup> A/45/548.

<sup>36</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 30 and addendum (A/45/30 and Add.1), chap. VIII.*

*Bearing in mind* the relevant recommendations of the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders<sup>37</sup> and of the Eighth Congress,<sup>31</sup> as well as the relevant observations of the Seventh Congress,<sup>38</sup>

*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,<sup>39</sup> and that the Committee had decided at its tenth session to undertake at its eleventh session a study of violence against women,<sup>40</sup>

*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

<sup>37</sup> 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.

<sup>38</sup> 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).

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

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

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-General<sup>41</sup> and the notes by the Secretary-General<sup>42</sup> 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,<sup>43</sup> 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,<sup>43</sup>

*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

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

<sup>42</sup> E/CN.6/1990/10 and E/CN.6/1991/9.

<sup>43</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.