

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 1951,⁵⁰ the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, of 31 January 1967,⁵¹ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,²⁹ and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁵²

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

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 Women³⁴ 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 Refugees⁵³ 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-General⁵⁴ and the report of the Expert Group Meeting on Refugee and Displaced Women and Children, held at Vienna from 2 to 6 July 1990,⁵⁵

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

⁵⁰ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

⁵¹ *Ibid.*, vol. 606, No. 8791.

⁵² General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.

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

⁵⁴ E/CN.6/1991/4.

⁵⁵ EGM/RDWC/1990/1.

and registration documents, on a non-discriminatory basis, to all refugee women and, wherever possible, children, irrespective of whether the women and children are accompanied by male family members;

6. *Urges* Member States and the organizations concerned to ensure the full participation of refugee and displaced women in the process of assessing their own needs and in the planning and implementing of programmes;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the system-wide review to assess the experience and capacity of various organizations in the coordination of assistance to all refugees, displaced persons and returnees assesses, in particular, the ability of those organizations to address the situation of refugee women and children;

8. *Encourages* international organizations to increase their capacity to respond to the needs of refugee and displaced women and children through greater coordination of their efforts;

9. *Commends* those Member States that, despite severe economic and development problems of their own, continue to admit large numbers of refugees into their territory, and emphasizes the importance of the international community sharing those burdens;

10. *Requests* all United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations, Governments, non-governmental organizations and funding agencies that play a role in the assistance and protection of refugees and displaced persons to adopt, if they have not already done so, a policy on refugee and displaced women and children that will provide for the full integration of women and children into their programmes, within their respective mandates, and will include a time-frame and procedures for implementation;

11. *Urges* the recruitment of staff, in particular, female field staff, who will be able to provide assistance and protection appropriate to the specific needs of refugee women and children;

12. *Calls upon* organizations working with refugees to ensure that key staff members undergo training to raise their awareness of the issues specific to refugee and displaced women and to provide them with skills for planning appropriate protection and assistance activities;

13. *Urges* that, in the collection of refugee statistics, data disaggregated by age and gender be included in order to represent the refugee population accurately.

*12th plenary meeting
30 May 1991*

1991/24. International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1990/16 of 24 May 1990, in which it took note of the report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its tenth session,⁵⁶

⁵⁶ E/1990/34.

Having considered the report of the Board of Trustees of the Institute on its eleventh session,⁵⁷

Convinced of the important impact of the work of the Institute in the areas of research, training and information on questions related to women and development, work that is a prerequisite for bringing about changes in development that benefit women and society,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its eleventh session and the decisions contained therein;

2. *Commends* the Institute for its efforts to integrate its research and training activities into the mainstream of development at the regional and national levels;

3. *Reaffirms* the catalytic role of the Institute in elaborating methodologies for carrying out research, training and information activities in new areas of interest affecting women and development;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the fact that the Institute is continuing to consider ways to strengthen its cooperation with the regional commissions and their national coordination centres and thereby expand its work at the regional and national levels;

5. *Renews its appeal* to Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other potential donors to continue contributing and, to the extent possible, to increase their contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, thus ensuring the continuity and expansion of the Institute's work;

6. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States that have contributed to the Trust Fund, which has enabled the Institute to carry out its mandate to meet new challenges and take account of new trends in the areas of research, training and information on questions related to women and development;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to appoint the Director of the Institute as soon as possible, so that she may take up her duties within the framework of the mandate established in the statute of the Institute.

*12th plenary meeting
30 May 1991*

1991/25. Elimination of discrimination against women in accordance with the aims of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979, by which it adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 45/124 of 14 December 1990 and Council resolution 1990/17 of 24 May 1990,

Taking note of resolutions 35/1 of 4 March 1991 and

⁵⁷ E/1991/21.