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STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN IN SOCIETY, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO
THE NEED FOR ACHIEVING EQUAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN AND TO WOMEN'S
CONTRIBUTION TO THE ATTAINMENT OF THE GOALS OF THE SECOND UNITED
NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE, TO THE STRUGGLE AGAINST COLONIALISM,
RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND TO THE STRENGTHENING OF
INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND OF CO-OPERATION BETWEEN STATES

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, by resolution 3010 (XXVII) of 18 December 1972, proclaimed the year 1975 as International Women's Year and decided to devote the year to intensified action: (a) to promote equality between men and women; (b) to ensure the full integration of women in the total development effort, especially by emphasizing women's responsibility and important role in economic, social and cultural development at the national, regional and international levels, particularly during the Second United Nations Development Decade; and (c) to recognize the importance of women's increasing contribution to the development of friendly relations and co-operation among States and to the strengthening of world peace.
2. The Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1849 (LVI) of 16 May 1974, approved the programme of measures and activities envisaged for the International Women's Year, 1975 which is annexed to the resolution. The programme contained, inter alia, the central theme of the International Women's Year: Equality, Development and Peace.
3. The Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1851 (LVI) of 16 May 1974, emphasized that, in accordance with the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, activities undertaken in connexion with the International Women's Year should recognize the importance of women's effective contribution to the struggle against racism and racial discrimination. The Council also noted that the General Assembly, in its resolution 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970 whereby it adopted the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, included among the goals and objectives of the Decade the encouragement of the full integration of women in the total development effort. The Council further requested the Secretary-General

to convene in 1975, in consultation with Member States, specialized agencies and interested non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, an international conference during the International Women's Year to examine to what extent the organizations of the United Nations system have implemented the recommendations for the elimination of discrimination against women made by the Commission on the Status of Women since its establishment, and to launch an international action programme including short-term and long-term measures aimed at achieving the integration of women as full and equal partners with men in the total development effort and eliminating discrimination on grounds of sex, and at achieving the widest involvement of women in strengthening international peace and eliminating racism and racial discrimination.

4. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1928 (LVIII) of 6 May 1975, having recalled General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970 and those declarations and instruments adopted by the United Nations acknowledging the equality of status of men and women, and having taken into account General Assembly resolutions 3010 (XXVII) of 18 December 1972 and 3342 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, urged that appropriate measures be taken to assure the full participation of women in planning, decision-making and the implementation of all development programmes at all levels. The Council urged further all those responsible for the preparation and implementation of national and international development programmes to make certain that women were given an opportunity to achieve their maximum potential as individuals and to make their maximum contribution to the economic, social and political development of their respective countries on the same terms as men, and that they receive their full share of the benefits of development. It finally recommended that Governments work towards the goals set forth above throughout the International Women's Year and the World Conference of the International Women's Year as part of a long-term sustained effort to integrate women fully into the development process at all levels.

5. The General Assembly, by resolution 3276 (XXIX) of 10 December 1974, decided to consider at its thirtieth session an item entitled "International Women's Year, including the proposals and recommendations of the Conference of the International Women's Year" and an item entitled "Status and role of women in society, with special reference to the need for achieving equal rights for women and to women's contribution to the attainment of the goals of the Second United Nations Development Decade, to the struggle against colonialism, racism and racial discrimination and to the strengthening of international peace and of co-operation between States".

6. The report of the World Conference of International Women's Year, held at Mexico City from 19 June to 2 July 1975, containing the "Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and their Contribution to Development and Peace, 1975", the Plan of Action and the resolutions and decisions adopted by the World Conference appears in document E/5725 and Add.1.

7. The following documents have also been circulated under the present item: note verbale from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (A/10049 and Corr.1); note verbale from the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic (A/10070); note verbale from Egypt (A/10071); note verbale from the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic (A/10075); note verbale from Bulgaria (A/10088); note verbale from Hungary (A/10099); note verbale from the Ivory Coast (A/10111); note verbale from Lebanon (A/10138); note verbale from Poland (A/10140); note verbale from Yugoslavia (A/10160); note verbale from Zaire (A/10210).
