



World Conference  
of the United Nations  
Decade for Women:  
Equality, Development and Peace

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SECOND COMMITTEE  
Agenda item 7 (b)

EFFECTS OF APARTHEID ON WOMEN IN SOUTHERN AFRICA:

(b) SPECIAL MEASURES FOR ASSISTANCE TO WOMEN IN  
SOUTHERN AFRICA

Apartheid and women in South Africa and Namibia

Congo, Egypt, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Niger, Nigeria,  
Togo, Uganda, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe: draft resolution

The World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality,  
Development and Peace,

Noting with regret that since 1975 the status of women under the apartheid  
regimes of South Africa and Namibia has deteriorated,

Recalling the resolutions adopted and proposals made by the World Conference  
of the International Women's Year, held at Mexico City in 1975,

Recalling also resolutions of the General Assembly of the United Nations,  
in particular resolution 3411 C (XXX) of 28 November 1975 by which the Assembly  
proclaimed that the United Nations and the international community have a  
special responsibility towards the oppressed people of South Africa and Namibia,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 33/189 placing the effects of  
apartheid on the status of women in South Africa and Namibia on the agenda of  
the World Conference,

Noting that attempts being made by women throughout the world to implement  
programmes set out under the United Nations Decade for Women did not  
satisfactorily attend to problems faced by women under the oppressive racist  
regimes of South Africa and Namibia,

Further noting that the Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development for the first half of the United Nations Decade for Women did not satisfactorily attend to problems faced by women under the oppressive racist regimes of South Africa and Namibia,

Also noting that the peoples of southern Africa and the world are facing the threat of world instability and war because of the rapid militarization of South Africa and the arms race while the avowed principle of the Decade is peace,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General on "The Effects of Apartheid on the Status of Women in South Africa and Namibia" (A/CONF.94/7), "The role of Women in the Struggle for Liberation in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa" (A/CONF.94/5) and "Measures of Assistance to Women in Southern Africa" (A/CONF.94/6) and the Declarations and recommendations of the Hemispheric Seminar on Women under Apartheid (Montreal) and the International Seminar on Women and Apartheid (Helsinki),

Reaffirming that, unless the peoples in South Africa and Namibia are liberated and are also able to participate in the global struggle for peace, equality and development, the over-all strategy objectives of the Decade for Women cannot be fully realized,

Considering that the observance of the United Nations Decade for Women must lead to an acceleration of concerted action by the women of the world for the complete eradication of apartheid in South Africa and Namibia through the assumption of power by the people,

Reaffirming that apartheid would have long been destroyed were it not for the economic and military assistance granted by the major Western countries to the regime of South Africa,

Again reaffirming that the States which give assistance to the racist regime of South Africa become accomplices in the inhuman practices of racial discrimination, massacres, detentions and death of thousands of women and children in these countries,

Further affirming its full solidarity with the women of South Africa and Namibia in their struggle for liberation under the leadership of their national liberation movements,

Noting with appreciation the sacrifices of the Frontline States of Africa in their support of the liberation struggles in South Africa and Namibia,

1. Rejects as inhuman and intolerable all policies designed to perpetuate Apartheid, racial segregation or other policies based on theories that racial groups are or may be inherently superior or inferior;

2. Calls upon the women of the world to pressurize their Governments:

(a) To sever all links - political, economic, diplomatic and military - with the apartheid regimes;

(b) To disseminate information on the effects of apartheid as widely as possible;

3. Urges the United Nations Security Council to enhance and intensify world-wide support for an effective oil embargo and comprehensive economic sanctions against South Africa;

4. Welcomes with gratitude the contribution by the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women to a legal defence fund for women suffering under the system of apartheid and colonial domination;

5. Condemns the vicious acts of aggression of the Pretoria regime against the Frontline States of Africa, and the killings of refugees, including women and children;

6. Urges all organizations of the United Nations system, governments, international and regional intergovernmental organizations, women's and anti-apartheid groups, non-governmental organizations and other groups to give the highest priority to the questions of measures of assistance to women in South Africa and Namibia during the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women;

7. Endorses the comprehensive programme for measures of assistance to women in South Africa and Namibia as contained in document A/CONF.94/6 and amended in Committee II;

8. Also endorses the Declaration and Recommendations of Helsinki and Montreal International Seminars on Women and Apartheid and commends them for the urgent attention of Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

9. Calls for the immediate release of all political prisoners in South Africa and Namibia;

10. Urges all trade unions to refrain from handling any merchandise, weaponry and any goods of economic value going to South Africa and Namibia;

11. Appeals to all governments and organizations to support the various projects of the national liberation movements, especially those designated for women and children.

The assistance called for should be channelled through the South African and Namibian liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity. Aid for women in Zimbabwe should be channelled directly through the Government of Zimbabwe;

12. Urges all concerned United Nations organizations to establish a voluntary fund to be used for the legal defence of political prisoners in South Africa and Namibia and assistance to their families;

13. Commends the Special Committee against Apartheid for giving special attention to the plight of women and children under apartheid;

14. Recommends that machinery be provided to monitor, co-ordinate and follow-up on the fullest implementation of the measures of assistance to women in South Africa and Namibia during the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women adopted in Copenhagen.