

## 1992/15. Women and children under apartheid

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* its resolution 1991/20 of 30 May 1991,

*Reaffirming* the provisions of the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution S-16/1 of 14 December 1989,

*Taking note* of General Assembly resolutions 46/79 A to F of 13 December 1991,

*Alarmed* by the grave socio-economic deprivation to which the majority of the people, especially the women and children, are subjected as a direct consequence of apartheid,

*Deeply concerned* about the alleged State complicity in politically motivated violence that has to date claimed thousands of lives and has left hundreds of thousands homeless, the majority of whom are women and children,

*Noting* the positive changes initiated by the South African authorities aimed at dismantling apartheid, which were the result of the relentless struggle waged by the people of South Africa as well as the pressure exerted by the international community,

*Noting with satisfaction* the signing of the National Peace Accord in September 1991<sup>29</sup> and the convening of the Convention for a Democratic South Africa in December 1991, and expressing the hope that this will constitute a major contribution towards a final end to the violence in South Africa,

*Welcoming* the holding of the Convention for a Democratic South Africa as an attempt to resolve the problems of South Africa by peaceful means as envisaged in the Declaration on Apartheid,

*Recognizing* that the equality of women and men cannot be achieved without the success of the struggle towards a united, non-racist, non-sexist and democratic South Africa,

*Aware* of the attention given by the United Nations, and, in particular, the Centre against Apartheid of the Secretariat and the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, to the issue of assisting South African women to participate fully in the process of establishing a non-racist democracy in their country,

1. *Commends* those women both inside and outside South Africa who have resisted oppression and who have remained steadfast in their opposition to apartheid;

2. *Demands* the immediate unconditional release of all political prisoners and detainees, among whom are women and children, in accordance with the undertaking of the South African authorities;

3. *Urges* those involved in the Convention for a Democratic South Africa to place high on their agenda issues concerning women such as freedom, justice and equality, development and the environment;

4. *Also urges* the South African authorities to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,<sup>34</sup> at the earliest possible opportunity;

5. *Appeals* to all countries and United Nations bodies, in conformity with General Assembly resolutions 46/79 A to F and in consultation with liberation movements, to increase their support for educational, health, vocational

training and employment opportunities for women and children living under apartheid;

6. *Requests* the Centre against Apartheid of the Secretariat to widen and strengthen its cooperation with the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, with a view to creating specific programmes of assistance to South African women to enable them to participate fully in the process of transition of their country towards a non-racist democracy;

7. *Appeals* to the international community to give its full and concerted support to the vulnerable and critical process now under way in South Africa through a phased application of appropriate pressures on the South African authorities as warranted by developments, and to provide assistance to the opponents of apartheid and the disadvantaged sectors of society in order to ensure the rapid and peaceful attainment of the objectives of the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa;

8. *Decides* to remain seized of the issue of women and children living under apartheid;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-seventh session.

*40th plenary meeting  
30 July 1992*

## 1992/16. Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Having considered* the reports of the Secretary-General<sup>35</sup> and the notes by the Secretary-General<sup>36</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>31</sup> in particular paragraph 260 thereof,

*Recalling also* its resolutions 1988/25 of 26 May 1988, 1989/34 of 24 May 1989, 1990/11 of 24 May 1990 and 1991/19 of 30 May 1991,

*Deeply alarmed* by the deteriorating condition of Palestinian women and children in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, as a result of the continued Israeli violation of Palestinian human rights, and oppressive measures, including collective punishments, curfews, demolition of houses, closure of schools and universities, deportation, confiscation of land and settlement activities, which are illegal and contrary to the relevant provisions of the Geneva Convention relevant to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,<sup>37</sup>

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 by an end to the Israeli occupation and by the attainment of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people;

2. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, accept the *de jure* applicability of the Geneva Convention relevant to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the occupied Palestinian territory,

including Jerusalem, and to respect the provisions of the Convention;

3. *Also demands* an end to the Israeli violation of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territory, including an immediate halt to the Israeli settlement activities that have harmful effects on Palestinian women and their families;

4. *Calls upon* governmental, non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, including organizations of the United Nations system, to assist Palestinian women in the occupied Palestinian territory in developing small-scale industry and creating vocational training and legal consultation centres;

5. *Requests* the Commission on the Status of Women to monitor the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in particular paragraph 260 concerning assistance to Palestinian women;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in monitoring the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the mission of experts to Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic to investigate the condition of Palestinian women and children<sup>38</sup> in order to improve the condition of Palestinian women and children;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to review the situation of Palestinian women and children in the occupied Palestinian territory and in the refugee camps, and to submit a report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-seventh session, using all available sources.

*40th plenary meeting  
30 July 1992*

#### **1992/17. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Welcoming* the fact that there are now one hundred and twelve States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,<sup>34</sup>

*Noting* the importance of the monitoring function of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, as demonstrated most recently in its general recommendation 19 on violence against women, adopted at its eleventh session,<sup>39</sup>

*Recalling* its resolution 1991/25 of 30 May 1991 and other relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council relating to support for the Committee,

*Concerned* that the duration of the annual session of the Committee, which is considerably less than that of other treaty bodies, has prevented the timely consideration by the Committee of many of the reports submitted to it by States parties to the Convention,

*Noting with concern* that the Convention is the human rights instrument with the most reservations, and welcoming the decision by a number of States parties to withdraw their reservations,

1. *Supports* the request of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women for additional meeting time and also supports the proposal that the twelfth session of the Committee should be of three weeks' duration;<sup>40</sup>

2. *Recommends* that three weeks be allocated for each subsequent session until the Committee removes the backlog of reports to be considered;

3. *Strongly supports* general recommendation 19 on violence against women, adopted by the Committee at its eleventh session, and calls on States parties to prepare their reports in accordance with this and other general recommendations of the Committee;

4. *Welcomes* other general recommendations adopted by the Committee at its previous sessions;

5. *Urges* the Secretary-General to continue to widely publicize the decisions and recommendations of the Committee.

*40th plenary meeting  
30 July 1992*

#### **1992/18. Violence against women in all its forms**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* its resolution 1991/18 of 30 May 1991, in which it requested that an expert group meeting be held to address the issue of violence against women and to discuss the possibilities of preparing an international instrument on this subject and the elements to be contained therein,

*Bearing in mind* that the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women<sup>31</sup> identify violence against women as a major obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace,

*Noting* that, in general recommendation 19, adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its eleventh session,<sup>39</sup> the Committee recognized that gender-based violence was a form of discrimination that seriously inhibited the ability of women to enjoy rights and freedoms on a basis of equality with men,

*Noting also* the response of the Committee to the report of the Secretary-General on violence against women in all its forms,<sup>41</sup> the annex to which contains the recommendations and a summary of the discussion of the Expert Group Meeting on Violence against Women, held at Vienna from 11 to 15 November 1991,

1. *Calls on* Governments to recognize that the elimination of violence against women is essential to the achievement of equality for women and is a requirement for the full respect of human rights;

2. *Urges* Member States to adopt, strengthen and enforce legislation prohibiting violence against women and to take all appropriate administrative, social and educational measures to protect women from all forms of physical and mental violence, in accordance with its resolution 1991/18;

3. *Calls on* States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women<sup>34</sup> to take the steps necessary to implement general recommendation 19, adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its eleventh session;<sup>39</sup>

4. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on violence against women in all its forms;<sup>41</sup>

5. *Decides* to convene an inter-sessional working group of the Commission on the Status of Women, open